NEW KOREA

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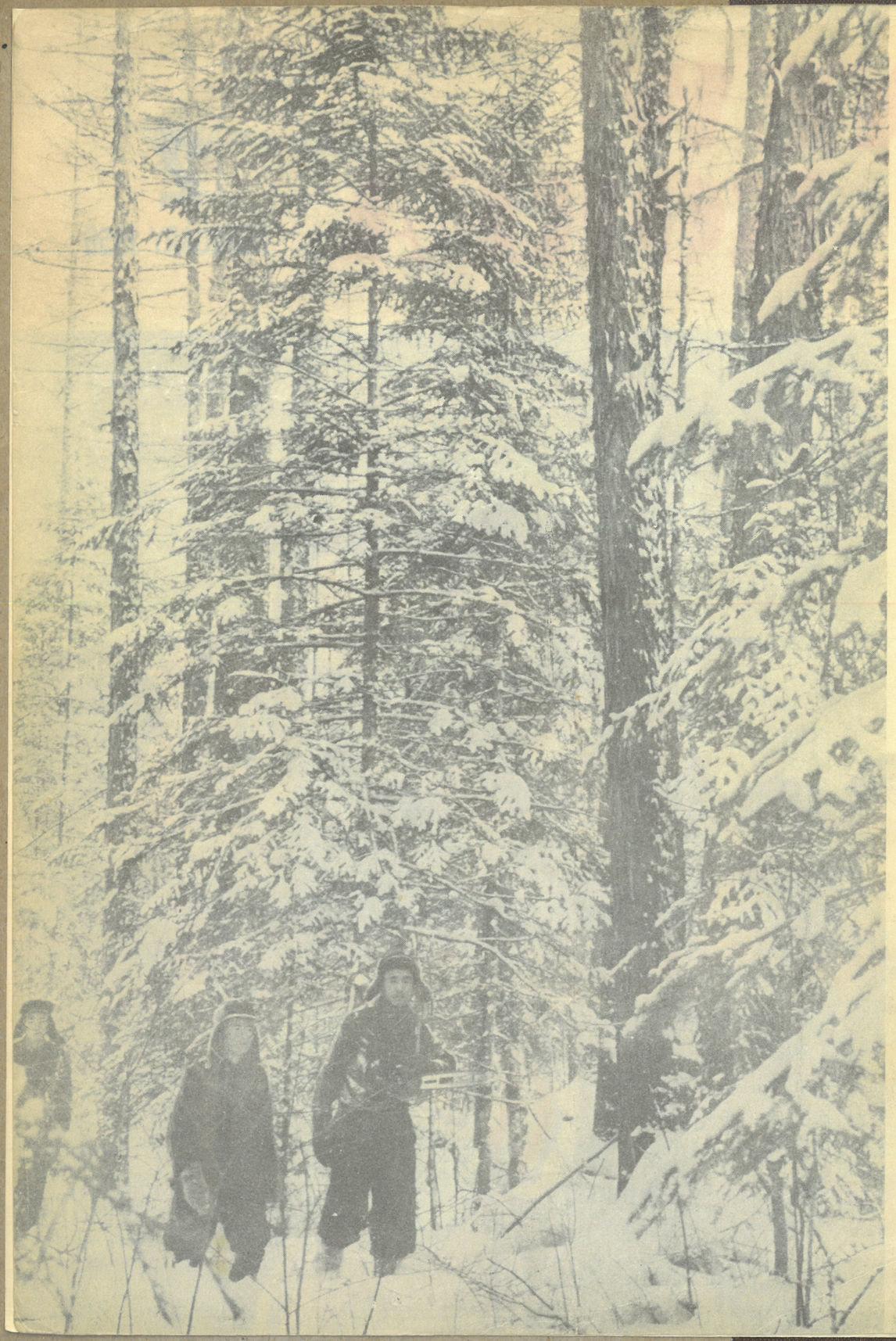

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CONTENTS

Spirit of Solidarity 3
Prospects of the National Economy in 1958 6
CHOI YONG JIN: Tenth Anniversary of Korean People's Army 9
For Peace, For the Peaceful Unification of the Fatherland 13
AN BYUNG NYUNG: New Factories 16
KIM KYOO KUL: Colonial Lopsidedness of South Korean Economy 19
In the Korean Press 23
KIM DOO SAM: Power Industry in Korea 29
SUH HONG RIN: Lumberjack 32
HAN JAI SUNG: For True Happiness 35
KIM SANG OH: Old Ironsmith KWON 38
These Shall Not Be Forgotten 43
KIM HYUN IL: Printing Types in Korea 45
Selected Works of Current Korean Literature, Volume 1 . . . 47
Rumanian Art Exhibition . . . 48
In the News 49

FRONT COVER: A People's Army soldier with children
INSIDE FRONT COVER: Lumbermen
Photo by Jun Ka Hyun
BACK COVER: *Birds perching on the plum tree*
Embroidered by Han Sung O

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Spirit of Solidarity

GREAT changes are now taking place in the life of the peoples of Asia and Africa.

National regeneration of the Asian and African peoples constitutes one of the most important features of our time. It is so powerful a trend that no desperate scheme of the Western colonialists can halt it.

Freedom, national independence and peace are the common aspirations of the Asian and African peoples who have taken the path of national regeneration. And they are inspired and united by these common aspirations.

The Asian and African Solidarity Conference, which was an event of great significance in the present-day international life, demonstrated the ever strengthening solidarity of the peoples of the two continents and dealt another powerful blow to the colonial subjugation policy of the Western Powers.

The Korean people warmly welcome the Declaration of the Asian and African Solidarity Conference expressing the desire to help each other in the fight for the welfare of the people throughout the world and the readiness to strive unremittingly for world peace.

The Western Powers, pursuing the policy of "divide and rule" and "Let Asians fight each other!" brought immense suffering to the Asian and African peoples, and the consequences of the heinous colonial domination policy are still felt. For the Asian and African peoples, therefore, the strengthening of their unity and solidarity is of utmost importance in their fight against their common enemy, colonialism.

Experiences have convinced us of the great significance of the existence of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union and of the solidarity and close co-operation among the Asian and African peoples in frustrating the frantic attempt of imperialists to shackle again with colonial fetters the people who have won their independence.

The Korean people are always mindful of the full support the peace-loving peoples throughout the world extended them in their harsh, trying period of war against the armed invasion of the American imperialists.

The peace-loving peoples headed by the Soviet Union, the Asian and African peoples in particular, unanimously condemned the adventurous manoeuvres of the bellicose imperialists and frustrated the aggressive schemes against Egypt and Syria.

Events which have taken place in the recent years are very instructive to us.

If the Asian and African people further consolidate mutual co-operation and solidarity in their joint struggle, they will, no doubt, free themselves forever from the fate of colonial slaves, can eliminate in the two continents the cause of uneasiness in the world, build a reliable bastion of peace, provide a guarantee for prosperity, and facilitate further the emancipation of the people still under the domination of colonial powers.

The Korean people rejoice at finding a common language with the hundreds of millions of peoples of Asia and Africa at the Asian and African Solidarity Conference in which their delegates took part.

The Korean people give full support to the resolutions passed at the Cairo Conference, and are determined to do all in their power to implement them.

It must be mentioned that the Conference paid due attention to the problem of peaceful unification of Korea, and called for a positive measure for the settlement of this pressing issue. The Korean people welcomed with great satisfaction this call.

It is only too clear that the artificial division of Korea resulting from colonial subjugation policy of the United States not only runs counter to the national interests of the Korean people but also creates a grave menace to peace in Asia. It is natural that our friends in Asia and Africa should be so greatly concerned about the peaceful unification of Korea.

The struggle of the Korean people for their country's peaceful unification constitutes a link of the joint struggle of the Asian and African peoples for universal peace and for the preservation of their national independence against colonialism.

It is for this reason that the attendants at the Asian and African Solidarity Conference unanimously supported the demands of the Korean people for the peaceful unification of their country.

The Resolution of the Cairo Conference on Imperialism gives support to the demands of the Korean people that Korea be unified peacefully by the Koreans themselves, all foreign troops withdrawn from Korea, Korean Armistice Agreement strictly abided by and the armistice converted into a durable peace.

The Conference also recognized the necessity of immediate convocation of a conference of the countries concerned with a view to promoting Korea's peaceful unification, and recommended that the authorities of North and South Korea establish direct contacts in the interest of the welfare of the Korean people and of world peace.

The resolution of the Asian and African Solidarity Conference will no doubt contribute to the promotion of peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

The Korean people take pride in the fact that their righteous struggle for the peaceful unification of the country enjoys the unanimous support of the Asian and African peoples making up two-thirds of the world population. And this support further fortifies the confidence of the Korean people in the victory of their cause.

The participants in the Asian and African Solidarity Conference were unanimous in their stand regarding the questions of war and peace, colonialism, racial discrimination, and prohibition of employment and tests of nuclear weapons, which exert great influence upon the development of the international situation.

The unanimous voice of the one thousand and seven hundred million people on these cardinal issues of our age are sounding with great force.

The Korean people, who were represented in the Cairo Conference, joined the Asian and African peoples in the condemnation of every manifestation of oppression, exploitation and coercion.

The participants in the Cairo Conference insisted upon liquidation of colonialism, immediate unconditional banning of nuclear weapons, restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the U.N., admission of the Mongolian People's Republic in the U.N. membership, and the unification of Viet-Nam through negotiations. For these the Korean people expressed full endorsement.

Such attitude as turning a deaf ear to the unanimous voice of the one thousand and seven hundred millions of people and shutting one's eyes to the regeneration of the once oppressed peoples runs counter to the spirit of the age.

The sanguinary colonial wars in Algeria, Oman, Yemen and Ifni, the artificially created conflict over the issue of Kashmir, the attempt of Nato bloc to interfere openly in the righteous struggle of the Indonesian people for the restoration of West Irian, and the attempt to force the "Dulles-Eisenhower doctrine" upon the peoples of the Near and Middle East — these alone are enough to reveal the dirty schemes of colonialists.

It is clear that at present when the total liquidation of the imperialist colonial system is the order of the day such schemes of colonialists would only lead colonialists themselves to complete isolation.

The resolutions of the Cairo Conference on the strengthening of economic and cultural co-operation are of great significance for the rehabilitation of national economy and the development of national culture in the Asian and African countries which won their independence not so long ago.

The Western imperialists, who are losing one after the other their footholds in the areas of Asia and Africa, are scheming to impose, under the fair name of "aid" as manifested in the "Dulles-Eisenhower doctrine," a new type of colonialism upon the countries which have won their independence, and to obliterate the national independence for which the peoples of these countries waged a harsh struggle.

The situation in South Korea well speaks of what is the real meaning of the "aid" of the imperialists to the underdeveloped countries. U.S. "aid" is driving the national economy of South Korea into total bankruptcy and plunging the South Korean people into the mire of starvation and poverty.

The Korean people, who are well aware of what the "aid" of the Western Powers means through their experience, are in a position to tell their friends in the Asian and African countries that any illusion on the "aid" of the Western Powers means falling into a snare.

The participants in the Cairo Conference proposed that economic, financial and technical aid be given with no political strings attached. A fine example of such aid with no political strings attached can be found in the aid of the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist camp to the young countries of Asia and Africa. The aid of the socialist countries are fully in accord with the desires of the Asian and African peoples to eliminate at an early date the pernicious consequences of protracted colonial rule and to win complete political and economic independence.

Recently, economic and cultural relations of the Korean people with a number of Asian and African countries on the principles of equality and mutual benefit have developed.

Last year, Korea signed trade agreements with India, Indonesia, Burma and Egypt, which are making valuable contributions to the strengthening of the ties of friendship with these countries and to each other's prosperity. This is the outcome of the consistent efforts of the Korean people. In his speech at the First Session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly of the D.P.R.K., Premier Kim Il Sung referred to the stand of the Korean people:

"We must establish friendly relations with all countries fighting for their national independence and peace against colonialism. We will work to strengthen solidarity with Asian and African countries such as India, Indonesia, Burma, Egypt and Syria, and develop economic and cultural relations with these countries on the basis of mutual benefit."

The Cairo Conference which took over and carried forward the spirit of Bandung signified a great victory for the spirit of solidarity.

With the development of friendly co-operation on the basis of the Five Principles of peaceful co-existence between the countries with different social and political systems, the zone of peace in the world has been further expanded. The existence of the mighty socialist camp and the ever broadening zone of peace are the guarantee of a brighter future for us.

The Korean people warmly welcome the historic success of the Cairo Conference, will strive ever more energetically to develop friendly relations of co-operation with all Asian and African countries on the basis of the Five Principles of peaceful co-existence, and will give full support to the peoples of the Asian and African countries in their fight against colonialism.

Prospects of the National Economy in 1958

LIM BYUNG HA

RECENTLY the D.P.R.K. Cabinet adopted Decision No. 122 on the National Economic Development Plan for 1958.

Before the entire working people of the Republic lie the tasks of summing up their victorious implementation of the plans for 1957 and fulfilling successfully greater assignments of the current year's plans.

They have registered great successes in carrying out last year's plans — the first year of the First Five-Year Plan — by actively exploring the reserves for increased production and economization in response to the Decisions of the December 1956 Plenum of the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea. These results have put our national economy on the road of an unprecedented upsurge.

In 1958, the ratio between industry and agriculture in the total production value in the northern part of the Republic will be 65 per cent to 35 per cent, while it was 60 per cent to 40 per cent in 1956. This means our Republic is being transformed into a self-sufficient industrial-agricultural country.

The year 1958 is a very important year in the country's socialist industrialization and the plans for the year are of great significance in the successful fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan. On the material and technical foundation achieved in the past year in carrying out the 1957 plans in line with the correct economic policy of the Workers' Party of Korea, the plans for 1958 have been drawn up. It is envisaged that a further upsurge in all fields of the national economy will be ensured, a number of unsettled questions solved and quite a few defects which still exist in our national economy removed.

Compared with the estimated output of 1957, in 1958 the total industrial output of the state and co-operative enterprises will increase 122.1 per cent, the total yield of grain 101.8 per cent, the total freight turn-over 113.2 per cent and the volume of commodities in circulation of the state and co-operative trade 130.5 per cent.

As was shown above, a number of important tasks were set before all branches of the national economy to accomplish the 1958 targets.

In the industrial sphere, for carrying out the Party's policy for ensuring priority development of heavy industry with the simultaneous development of light industry and agriculture, workers of the metallurgical industry have now set out to fulfil their 1958 quotas which are 17.6 per cent greater than in 1957. It is envisaged that in 1958 demands for standardized products such as rolled steel will be fully met and, especially, more different-size iron and small-size steel products will be turned out and the production of granulated iron will be increased by introducing advanced methods of work, to meet fully the needs for rolled metal.

In the sphere of fuel industry this year's production goal is 23.3 per cent higher than that of 1957. In order to fulfil this target, first of all, every effort will be made to sink pits and furnish electric trains in such key coal mines as Anjoo, Aoji, Kokunwon, Ryongdeung, Shinchang, Kowon, Kaichun, and Songnam and to construct galleries.

And in the western region of the Republic the prospecting work for new bituminous coal mines will be reinforced. It is anticipated that many new mines will be opened shortly.

In the sphere of electric industry, this year's targets are 14.4 per cent above the 1957 figure. Measures are being taken to ensure the supply of electricity needed for the further development of the national economy by speeding up the restoration and construction of power stations. This year construction work on the Dokro-gang Hydro-electric Power Station will go on briskly and dam construction at the Soopoong Hydro-electric Power Station will be completed.

In the engineering and metal industry the total production will grow this year by 23.5 per cent as against 1957. The aim is to turn out more and better machines and accessories.

Moreover, it is expected that each province will develop its industry, taking into account the local conditions especially, in turning out more farming machines and implements. Furthermore, efforts will be made to expand on a large scale the production of such vehicles as carts, wagons, etc. in order to facilitate transport in the countryside.

Chemical industry plans, first of all, to ensure a yet larger production of chemical fertilizers and agricultural medicines needed for increasing grain output. Mention should be made of the newly-built ammonium nitrite shop of Heungnam Fertilizer Factory which will turn out in 1958 a great quantity of ammonium nitrite fertilizer and oil hexachlorine, the latter needed for making insecticides.

In the cement factories, the utility rate of kilns and facilities will be raised so as to increase the operation rate to 91 or 95 per cent.

Building materials industry, in line with the decisions of the October 1957 Plenum of the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea, will produce pre-fabricated parts and turn out on a large scale brick blocks at both the brick yards and construction sites. At the same time, slag blocks, coal cinder blocks, pulverized stone blocks, adobe bricks and other building materials will be widely utilized.

For the rapid development of light industry, an expansion of textile industry, including the production of artificial fabrics, is planned. The production of synthetic yarn in 1958 is expected to be 402.7 per cent as against 1957. And various technical measures are being taken to produce mixed cotton and artificial fibre fabrics and to dye and print synthetic goods.

Cabinet Decision No. 128

ON RAISING WAGES OF WORKERS, TECHNICIANS AND OFFICE WORKERS

Thanks to the patriotic devotion and creative labour of the entire working people who have risen up in the struggle for increased production and economization in support of the Decision adopted at the December Plenum in 1956 of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the national economic plan for 1957, the first year of the Five-Year Plan, was successfully overfulfilled in industry, agriculture and all other branches of the national economy.

As a result, the reserves of finance and commodities of the State have been increased, and conditions are provided for further improvement in the life of working people.

Based upon this, the Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, for the further enhancement of the material and cultural standards of workers, technicians and office workers, adopts the following decisions:

1) The basic wages of workers, technicians and office workers of the State and co-operative organs and enterprises will be raised by 10 per cent on an average from January 1, 1958.

2) Minister of Labour shall prepare regulations covering the enforcement of this decision and submit them to the Cabinet by January 15, 1958. The regulations shall be formulated to raise wages of workers, technicians and office workers within the limits of an average 10 per cent of their basic wages on the principle of allotting higher rates to employees under the category of lower basic wages.

KIM IL SUNG
Premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Pyongyang, Korea,
December 31, 1957

And to further enhance the people's living standard, it is planned to develop the food processing industry by increasing products of meat, fish, fruit, vegetables as well as to improve their qualities. Furthermore, foodstuffs will be processed on the spot where raw-materials are available. And the state farms and livestock farms, local industrial factories and agricultural co-operatives will introduce a better system of foodstuff preservation and processing.

In agriculture stress will be, as hitherto, laid on a higher yield of grain, while it is also urged to increase cotton 3.7-fold as compared with 1957, and expand the flax acreage to keep a flow of raw-material for the fabric industry.

It is expected that last year's flood damaged land will be rehabilitated and irrigation facilities will be restored so as to water fields in time and river improvement completed before the rainy season. These will ensure this year's successful farming.

To improve the quality of corn, agricultural co-operatives will lay out experimental seed plots to cultivate hybrid seeds for the 1960 farm season.

Also marked progress will be made in fruit growing, sericulture and livestock breeding.

In the sphere of transportation, measures are being taken to shorten the stopping time of freight cars and raise the efficiency of repair shops for rolling stock.

Efforts will also be made to improve the road network and water transport.

In the fields of construction, measures are to be taken to ensure successfully the construction work in the countryside. And, furthermore, it is expected to develop the work of building dwelling houses as a mass movement with a view to accommodating 10,000 households, while in the city of Pyongyang 3,000 one-story houses are to be built by various organs and organizations.

A number of important tasks are raised before the enhancement of technical level. There are 315 items in the plans for introducing advanced technical processes and automation, while 207 programs are drawn for scientific research and experimental work.

Also outlined are the tasks of utilizing by-products from coking at iron works, accelerating the preparatory work to construct a vynalon factory, organizing the production of vinyl, raising the production capacity of lime nitrogen and constructing a penicillin factory.

In the spheres of labour, education, culture and public health the task of promoting people's living standards has been set.

Especially for the effective training of technicians it is necessary to establish close contact between poly-technical institutes and factories. With this in view, after the fourth year the students will be sent to proper factories or enterprises so as to prepare graduation theses. There they will receive systematic, scientific guidance in their work and study until their theses are passed.

As shown above, in 1958 our national economy will gain more marked achievements and the socialist sectors in every sphere of national economy will be further strengthened. Moreover basic construction for industrialization will be accelerated.

A successful transformation of this vast plan into realization is by no means an easy task. But the past achievements and experiences, the enthusiasm and the increasing vigor of the working masses in the struggle for implementing the decisions of the December 1956 Plenum of the Workers' Party of Korea, convince us that this vast plan for the year 1958 will be not only fulfilled but overfulfilled.

Tenth Anniversary of Korean People's Army

Lt. General CHOI YONG JIN

THIS YEAR, the Korean People's Army, together with the entire Korean people, greets its 10th anniversary amidst political enthusiasm and vigorous labour struggle of the entire working people for the country's peaceful unification and the building of socialism in the northern part of the country.

Under the correct guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean People's Army has traversed a glorious militant path for the past ten years. With its boundless fidelity to the Party and Government, its devotion to the country and people, and its peerless heroism and patriotism, it enjoys a brilliant history, short though it may be.

After liberation of the Korean people from the yoke of Japanese imperialists' rule by the great Soviet Army, the Workers' Party of Korea, firmly relying on the ever growing international revolutionary forces, established the people's power in the northern part of the country and further consolidated it. All democratic reforms were carried out to effect a successful anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution. And the northern part of the country has been turned into a revolutionary democratic base, a powerful guarantee for building a unified democratic independent country.

Thanks to the correct guidance of the Party and the creative labour struggle of the toiling masses with the working class in the van, our national economy, once devastated by the Japanese imperialists, was rapidly restored and developed, which resulted in a considerably rapid advancement in our culture and in the living standards of the people.

Circumstances, however, have been quite different in South Korea occupied by the American aggressive army.

The American imperialists who had long been scheming aggression against Korea persistently pursued from the first day of their occupation of South Korea their naked policy of converting it into a strategic base for the invasion of the continent.

They concocted the puppet government in South Korea by piecing together such reactionary elements as landlords, comprador capitalists, pro-Japanese, pro-Americans and national traitors, and organized the puppet army in a desperate effort to prepare for an armed aggression against North Korea.

In consideration of this grave situation created in the country, on February 1948, the Workers' Party of Korea founded the Korean People's Army in defence of the people's democratic system and revolutionary gains of the people.

Its founding was a brilliant, historic victory won by the Korean people.

The Korean People's Army is an army of new type. It is our people's revolutionary armed forces which was organized with sons and daughters of the liberated workers, peasants, and the entire people. It has inherited directly the revolutionary patriotic tradition of the anti-Japanese partisans led by Marshal Kim Il Sung and is equipped with proletarian internationalism. And it has assimilated the rich experiences and the world's most advanced military science of the Soviet Army.

In order to develop the army into a regular, modern one, the Workers' Party of Korea assigned the best cadres steeled in the armed struggle against the Japanese imperialists to the most important work of organizing the army, and sent a number of Party leaders and members into the ranks of the People's Army.

The Party trained officers of workers' origin, equipped the army with up-to-date arms and gave guidance to their education. As a result, the People's Army grew into a powerful army in a short span of time.

During the period of peaceful construction, the Korean People's Army crushed every attempt of the traitorous Syngman Rhee clique

under the American imperialists' direction to disturb the democratic construction in the northern part, thereby firmly safeguarding the revolutionary democratic base, and achievements of the people's peaceful creative labour.

But on June 25, 1950, the American imperialists, in accordance with their long-schemed aggressive designs to scuttle the plan for the peaceful unification of our country, instigated their lackey Syngman Rhee and his cohorts to start a surprise armed aggression against North Korea.

The three long years of the Fatherland Liberation War unleashed by the American imperialists and Syngman Rheeites were the most cruel, trying period for the young People's Army.

However, the entire men and officers of the Army, under the wise guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea, rose up in the just war to smash the aggressors and safeguard the freedom and independence of the country.

Immediately the enemy's attack was repulsed and the Korean People's Army started counterattacking, dealing a fatal blow to the main forces of the puppet army. Within three days Seoul was liberated and the People's Army made a sweeping advance chasing the routed enemy.

The American imperialists who had gone completely haywire over the defeat of the Syngman Rhee's puppet army mobilized on a large scale their ground forces stationed in Japan besides naval and air forces to a full military aggression against our country.

However, the enemy's foolhardy adventure was shattered to pieces before our heroic People's Army. Our men and officers, dealing fatal blows to the enemy forces, liberated within one and a half months more than 90 per cent of the whole territory of South Korea and 92 per cent of the population. And the People's Army annihilated most of the main forces of the Syngman Rhee puppet army together with a large quantity of their combat materials. And more than 60,000 American soldiers were killed, wounded or captured. Thus their adventurous attempt was utterly foiled.

The U.S. imperialists facing complete defeat before the heroic counterattacks of the People's Army mobilized their entire army, naval and air forces in the Pacific areas and a part of their Mediterranean Fleet. In addition, they ordered out the armed forces of their satellites in an attempt to turn the tide. And in the middle of September 1950, they landed in Inchon and launched a large-scale offensive against us.

In consideration of the great numerical difference the People's Army had to take the course of temporary strategic retreat.

But our men and officers with firm confidence in the ultimate victory endured bravely every kind of hardship and resisted heroically delivering telling blows to the enemy. Every inch of the land was defended with their blood, and the main forces of the People's Army successfully cut their way through the enemy's encirclement. Under the adverse conditions of the temporary retreat the People's Army honourably carried out its task.

Some combined units of the People's Army remained deep in the enemy's rear to engage in positive military action inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. And these units of the People's Army in close cooperation with the partisan units provided advantageous conditions for the main forces of the People's Army to make plans for counterattack.

At the most critical moment for our country and people the fraternal Chinese people who are true to proletarian internationalism sent their People's Volunteers composed of their best sons and daughters to the Korean front under the slogan of the "Resist-America-and-Aid-Korea".

The entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers in the Korean war turned the situation in our favour.

The Korean People's Army, in close cooperation with the Chinese People's Volunteers, annihilated by encirclement attacks the enemy forces who had penetrated northward beyond the Chungchun River. Not only the further advance of the enemy forces was checked, but they were driven beyond the 38th Parallel, suffering a fatal blow.

Firmly holding the initiative of the battle, and inflicting great losses on the enemy's manpower and materials, the Korean-Chinese units entered into the phase of positive defence along the 38th Parallel dealing mortal blows to the enemy.

The enemy repeated their assaults on our positions only to be smashed by our heroic men and officers. Particularly the heroic defenders of Heights 1211 and 1052 will shine for ever in our history. The enemy kept dumping tens of thousands of bombs and shells upon these heights and made many assaults — their so-called wave attacks — scores of times a day with an army of several divisions strong, but they were unable to push even a toe into our positions. It was not without reason that the enemy called Height 1211 by the name of "Heartbreak Ridge" and the valley in front of the height, "Trap Valley". In fact the height and valley were strewn with the bodies of their mercenaries.

Especially our raiding parties, snipers, tank destroyers and plane hunters inflicted immense losses upon the enemy making them stand in awe of our fighters.

Suffering from weariness and immobility in face of our vigorous defence action, the enemy intensified their barbarous bombings both at the front and in the rear in an attempt to make up for their great losses. They even resorted to bacteriological and chemical warfare in violation of the international conventions. However, even these desperate, inhuman methods could do very little for them who were suffering defeat.

In the early part of 1953, they prepared openly the so-called "Eisenhower's New Offensive" attempting to make landings on both east and west coasts and cut through the front.

In order to thwart their "new offensive" the People's Army, in close cooperation with the Chinese People's Volunteers, completed the underground defence system along the front and coasts, and the enemy's attempted landings were successfully prevented by our strong, fortified defence.

Especially in June and July 1953, the Korean People's Army showed their unconquerable might in the battles of Heights 351 and 811.7 and along the southern line of Keumsung.

Consequently the crisis for the American imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique became more acute. Through the war against the U.S. imperialist aggressors men and officers of the People's Army, educated by the Party and infused with the revolutionary, patriotic tradition of the anti-Japanese partisans led by Marshal Kim Il Sung, displayed collective heroism and patriotism unparalleled in our history.

In the course of three years of war 13 units and combined units were given the title of Guards. And many units were conferred with the Order of Freedom and Independence and the Order of National Flag. And more than 480 Heroes of the D.P.R.K. emerged from the ranks of the People's Army and over 746,000 combatants were decorated for distinguished services.

Ninteen year old Li Soo Bok, Hero of the D.P.R.K., who ensured the victory of our units by covering the muzzle of an enemy gun with his own body is an example of how loyal our men were to the Party and fatherland. The following lines are recorded in his diary:

"I am a liberated Korean youth. Very dear is my life to me. But the fate of the fatherland is dearer. My hopes, my life, and my happiness are nothing without my fatherland. Can there be greater hope, dearer life or supreme happiness for me than to devote my youth — though once it is gone, it is gone forever — to my beloved fatherland?"

The American aggressive army which had boasted of their world "supremacy" spent 20 billion dollars in the three years of the Korean war, mobilized a vast amount of manpower and every modern war machine. And the Pentagon sent its famous generals one after another to the Korean front. But only to suffer a scandalous defeat which they had never tasted before in the history of their aggression.

Their repeated defeats and the pressure of the world peace-loving people with the Soviet Union in the van demanding a stop to the bloodshed in Korea, forced the U.S. imperialists to kneel before the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers to sign the Armistice Agreement.

The Korean people and their armed forces, the People's Army, won the victory in the end.

The Korean war revealed that when a people take the power into their own hands and fight for their own freedom and independence of their country under the wise guidance of the Marxist-Leninist Party they are destined to win victory. Moreover, in the case of the Korean people there were the moral support and material aid of the peoples of the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union.

The Workers' Party of Korea, the leading and guiding force of the Korean people, was the organizer and inspirer of victory in the war.

Thanks to the wise and correct guidance of the Party, the Korean People's Army

defeated the American imperialist armed aggressors, thereby safeguarding honourably the freedom and independence of the country and contributing to the cause of peace in Asia and the world.

The just Fatherland Liberation War against the American imperialist aggressors showed to perfection the great vitality of the people's democratic system and the invincibility of proletarian internationalism.

The vast mental and material aid rendered by the peoples of the socialist countries centering around the Soviet Union inspired our people and army toward victory.

Especially the Chinese People's Volunteers sent by the fraternal Chinese people under the slogan of "Resist-America-and-Aid-Korea" set a living example of proletarian internationalist ties through their heroic struggle sharing sweets and bitters with the Korean People's Army.

The Korean People's Army which went through the flames of the severe war accumulated experiences in modern warfare tactics and strengthened further its fighting power, thereby growing to an invincible army.

After the war the Party and Government, reflecting the unanimous desire of the entire people, set it as one of the most important and foremost revolutionary tasks at the present stage to struggle to maintain peace in Korea and attain the peaceful unification of the country. In order to carry out the task, the socialist construction in the northern part of the country is being accelerated to strengthen further the democratic base, while the patriotic forces throughout the North and South are being rallied to put up a strenuous struggle against feudalism and imperialism.

After the war, thanks to the correct economic policy of the Party and Government in the northern part, the socialist relations of production have become further expanded in a short space of time. Colonial lopsidedness in our industry has been considerably eliminated; its technical foundation has been further strengthened and the people's material and cultural standard has been further improved.

In 1957, the gross industrial output in the northern part of the country increased by 44 per cent compared with 1956 according to a preliminary data and the socialist transformation of agriculture has been nearly completed. 95.6 per cent of the entire peasant households has been embraced in agricultural co-ops.

As a result, the northern part of the country is gradually being converted from a backward agrarian country into a self-supporting industrial-agrarian one and the socialist sector has become predominant.

However, in South Korea occupied by the U.S. Army the national economy is getting into a worse condition due to the war policy of the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique and their colonialist plundering policy.

The South Korean national industry is on the brink of complete bankruptcy due to the flood of the American surplus goods, the monopoly of raw materials and funds by the American monopolists and comprador capitalists and unbearably high taxes, while the peasants, the main plundering objects of the Syngman Rhee clique, are in a ruinous state.

The economic devastation and intensified exploitation have driven workers and peasants and the entire toiling masses of South Korea into the mire of unemployment, famine and poverty.

The American imperialists' contempt for and barbarous acts against the South Korean people are being further intensified, and not even one iota of national and progressive expression is allowed.

These are the results of 12 years of colonial rule of the American imperialists.

Our Party and Government have been endeavouring to realize the peaceful unification, the earnest aspiration and the vital issue of the entire Korean people. Holding to the principle that the Korean question must be solved by the Koreans themselves without any intervention from without, the Government of the D.P.R.K. has repeatedly proposed the most rational and practicable measures. Moreover, our Government reduced the People's Army by 80,000 men and officers and equipment to promote the relaxation of tension in Korea and convert the armistice into a lasting peace. And after the war, 19 divisions of the Chinese People's Volunteers were withdrawn from Korea.

Despite that, the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique have been seeking to aggravate tension in Korea opposing by every means the peaceful unification of the country.

In October, 1953, they concluded the aggressive "ROK-U.S. Mutual Defence Treaty", and, later, the "ROK-U.S. Agreement on Military and Economic Aid" in an attempt to perpetuate the occupation of South Korea by the American armed forces. They busy themselves in reinforcing the Syngman Rhee puppet army and expanding armaments.

Recently the American imperialists declared that they would unilaterally abrogate an important paragraph of the Armistice Agreement. They are scheming to introduce new types of weapons into South Korea with the intention of converting it into an American atomic base.

Directed by the American imperialists, the Syngman Rhee clique maintain a puppet army of over 700,000 strong by raking up everything from the South Korean people, and are clamoring for "March to North".

To cover the true colour of their aggressive policy toward Korea and to justify it, the U.S. imperialists during the 12th Session of the United Nations forced the session to adopt the unlawful resolution on the Korean question by mobilizing their voting machines, without the participation of the representatives of the Korean people, thus exposing their true character before the entire peace-loving people of the world. But, however desperately they may try, the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique will never be able to realize their aggressive designs. They will never be able to shake the invincibility of the Korean people aspiring after the country's unification.

Firmly relying on the ever developing revolutionary democratic base, the Korean people who are united firmly around the Party and Government headed by Marshal Kim Il Sung, enjoying support and aid of the socialist camp with the Soviet Union as the centre, will frustrate the U.S. imperialists' aggressive scheme and attain the peaceful unification of the country without fail.

Greeting the 10th anniversary of its founding, the People's Army is doing its part to strengthen its fighting power, keeping a sharp vigilance against any and all provocations of the enemy.

The Korean People's Army, under the correct guidance and concern of the Party, which has honourably fulfilled its duty of defending the country for the past ten years and which was strengthened through the war is firmly resolved to safeguard the freedom and independence of the country — the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — and to make a contribution to the cause of Asian and world peace by staunchly defending the Asian outpost of the socialist camp centering around the Soviet Union.

For Peace, For the Peaceful Unification of the Fatherland

KIM SEUNG HYUNG

THE appeal from Moscow that "War is not inevitable, war can be prevented and peace can be preserved and made secure" stimulated the Korean people who experienced personally what war means and value peace more than anything else.

The present international trend that prevents the imperialists from provoking another war and invading any country of the socialist camp has inspired firm confidence in victory in the struggle of the Korean people for the peaceful unification of the fatherland.

The Second Congress of the United Democratic Fatherland Front held in Pyongyang (December 18-19, 1957) showed vividly the will and confidence of the Korean people who are working energetically for world peace and the peaceful unification of the fatherland.

The Appeal of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. to representatives of all working people, political and public figures, men of science and culture, parliaments and governments of all countries and the Peace Mani-

festo adopted at the meeting of the representatives of the Communist and Workers' Parties of all countries were discussed at the Congress attended by representatives of all the patriotic, democratic political parties, social organizations and of all walks of life.

At the Congress Kim Chang Man, Vice-Chairman of the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea, delivered a speech. Attaching historic importance to the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution in Moscow and the meetings of representatives of the Communist and Workers' Parties of all countries, he said that the fundamental change brought about in the balance of power in the present-day international arena created practical possibilities for preventing war.

Referring to the measures of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic for the peaceful unification of the fatherland and to the Korean people's struggle for implementing them, he stressed that all the patriotic forces fighting for world peace and for the peaceful unification of the fatherland be united, the socialist construction in the northern part of the Republic be accelerated and friendship and solidarity with the peoples of all the countries of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union be strengthened.

On the basis of the Peace Manifesto and the report delivered by Premier Kim Il Sung at the Enlarged Plenary Meeting of the C.C., Workers' Party of Korea (Dec. 5-6, 1957), the Congress addressed an appeal "To all fellow countrymen" for inspiring the entire Korean people to strive for world peace and for the peaceful unification of the fatherland. The Congress also decided to undertake a nation-wide signature collecting campaign for the prompt ban of tests of atomic and hydrogen weapons, unconditional prohibition of their production and use and for the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist troops from Korea, opposing the American imperialists' attempt to turn South Korea into their atomic base.

Resolutions in support of Premier N.A. Bulganin's letters to the President of the U.S.A. and heads of Nato states and memoranda addressed by the Government of the Soviet Union to the U.N. member states were unanimously adopted by the Congress.

It also elected its new Central Committee composed of 87 members. And the subsequent first meeting of the C.C. of the U.D.F.F. held on Dec. 19, elected its Presidium composed of Kim Il Sung, Hong Myung Hi, Hong Ki Hwang, Kim Dal Hyun, Han Duk Soo, Kim Chun Hai and Ri Yung, and its new 25 member executive committee.

Based on the scientific analysis of the present international situation that peace forces are far superior to forces of war, the appeal and resolutions testified more convincingly that so long as the peace-loving peoples of the world unite their forces and wage a resolute struggle, war can be prevented. We are not to wait idly for the peaceful unification of the fatherland but must work for it. And it will be achieved.

At the Congress Comrade Pak Duk Hwa said on behalf of the entire working class and trade union organizations:

"What we want is peace, not war, not unification by arms but by peaceful means, not self-destruction but creative life and prosperity."

Keenly aware of their duty to the cause of peace, Korean people are strenuously working with all peace-loving peoples who oppose imperialists' aggression, particularly strengthening the solidarity with African and Asian peoples for a collective security system in the East. Koreans insist strongly that no nation or not even a single place in the East should be occupied by foreign troops, and no place should be turned into an atomic base of the U.S.A.

At the same time the Korean people are demanding more firmly than ever the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction.

Kim Se Ryul, Chairman of the Korean Buddhist Association, said:

"We Buddhists love peace. The first principle of Buddhism is against taking life. It embodies the idea of peace and charity of Buddhism. Therefore, today Buddhists regard it as their sacred duty to preserve and consolidate world peace while working for the prohibition of atomic and hydrogen and other mass annihilation weapons."

This struggle is related closely with the peaceful unification of the fatherland. The cause of world peace will be aided greatly by unfolding a successful struggle for preserving peace in Korea and accelerating the peaceful unification of the fatherland.

The prompt banning of atomic and hydrogen weapon tests and unconditional prohibition of their production and use and the withdrawal of aggressive U.S. army that the Korean people are now demanding in a country-wide signature collecting campaign will contribute to the preservation of world peace, and at the same time will speed the peaceful unification of Korea.

Korean people and the entire peoples of Asia have experienced that, wherever such aggressive troops as the U.S. Armed Forces set their foot there can be no peace and people cannot sleep soundly.

Vice-Chairman of the C.C. of the Korean Democratic Women's League Kim Yung Soo said that South Korean women are subject to all kinds of exploitation and oppression under the fascist rule of the American imperialists, and their freedom and happiness are trampled down mercilessly.

She went on:

"In the name of all the Korean women, mothers and our beloved sons and daughters, we once again brand the American imperialists and their hirelings Syngman Rhee clique as the enemy of the Korean people and peace."

The meeting called upon all the patriotic forces of North and South Korea to unite in order to make the U.S. aggressive army withdraw from our country and solve the question of peaceful unification of the fatherland by the Korean people themselves.

Irrespective of one's political views, religion, social position, the entire Korean people are closely rallied round the U.D.F.F. with the Workers' Party of Korea as its leading core, fighting for peace and the peaceful unification of the fatherland.

The united front composed of people of broad strata that has been formed in the northern part of the Republic is playing a great part in performing our revolutionary task.

In South Korea, too, the possibility of forming a united front of workers and peasants and the patriotic forces representing the people of every stratum, is growing. Korean people are making efforts to form a country-wide united front of patriotic forces. No doubt the efforts of Korean people to form a country-wide united front will bring glorious results in the near future under the present circumstances in which a sharp antagonism is becoming more acute between the people and the American imperialists in South Korea. The U.D.F.F. stated in its appeal that it will cooperate with all the patriotic parties, social organizations and individuals whose stand is for peaceful unification. And it further stated that anyone would be welcomed, his past and present deeds not held against him, so long as he is for the peaceful unification of the fatherland.

The time has come when we are able to tear down the artificial barriers that separate the homogeneous people of Korea who have lived as a single nation through a long history.

At the Enlarged Plenary Meeting of the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea (Dec. 5-6, 1957), Premier Kim Il Sung, emphasizing the removal of the wall put up between the North and South, said: "The opportunity for contacts and negotiations between political parties and social organizations and individuals of North and South Korea should be provided. First of all, in South Korea political life should be democratized and the free activities of every political party and social organization ensured. On our part, we will ensure all political parties, social organizations and individuals of South Korea conditions for their free activities in North Korea." In face of the rapid growth of socialist forces in the northern part of the Republic which are a reliable guarantee for accelerating the peaceful unification of the fatherland, it is impossible for the American imperialists to stay permanently in South Korea and perpetuate the division of the fatherland. The appeal of the U.D.F.F. says, "If we unite and struggle, ultimately the peaceful unification of the fatherland will be realized." It is received most warmly by the people of North and South Korea and serves to arouse them to the realization of their long-cherished national aspiration.

NEW FACTORIES

AN BYUNG NYUNG

A GREAT miracle has taken place in Korea in the post-war period. During a short space of time after the war, more than 280 big and medium factories and mills, which had been razed to the ground during the war by the American brutes, have been rebuilt and furnished with latest equipment, while over eighty big and medium industrial establishments, installed with up-to-date machinery, have come into being.

Such tremendous strides in rehabilitation and reconstruction have been made possible thanks to the correct economic policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K. which called for priority growth of heavy industry along with the development of light industry and agriculture.

In this connection, mention must also be made of the material and moral assistance of the Soviet Union, People's Republic of China and the other fraternal People's Democracies.

Stimulated by the correct leadership of the Party and the Government and by the aid of the fraternal countries, Korean workers are registering fresh success in their endeavour.

The first year of Korea's First Five-Year Plan witnessed reconstruction and building of many factories and plants. Among them are the Shinpo Fish Cannery, Chungjin Spinning Mill and the Pyongyang Woodwork and Furniture Factory.

KOREA'S FIRST FISH CANNERY

The big, new fish cannery, built in Shinpo, one of the major fishing ports on the east coast, went into operation on June 29, 1957.

Abundant fish caught along the east coast is being processed and packed at the cannery.

The cannery occupying a site of 62,500 square metres and with buildings of 15,275 square metres of floor space was built with part of the one billion rouble aid the Soviet Government gave us in the post-war days.

The State Fishing Research Institute under the Ministry of Fishing Industry of the U.S.S.R. undertook the designing of the cannery. Eleven Soviet competent designers were sent to conduct preliminary investigation of geological conditions, water and power supply and the port before the final plan was drawn up.

The investigation took two months from April 1954. They had many discussions with the personnel of the organizations concerned on the matters of engineering and economy.

With the blueprints worked out by the Soviet designers Korean Ministry of Construction started the work on March 15, 1955.

A group of Soviet experts, refrigeration engineers, electricians, construction engineers, operators of heat treatment machines and can making machines, led by Sergei Mikhailovich Jolotov, came to help in the project.

Soldiers of the Chinese People's Volunteers gave a helping hand for three months. They erected stacks for a concrete landing pier.

Stimulated by the assistance of the peoples of their brotherly countries, Korean constructors stepped up the speed of their work.

The cannery has annual production capacity of 4,000 tons, and nearly all the processes are automatized.

To convey fish from the port to the storehouse at the mill, there are nine conveyers. The fish then go through the preparatory operations of gutting, cleaning and slicing. After that they are packed into cans by automatic filling machines at a rate of 126 cans a minute.

They are then sealed and sent through the sterilization process. Then the cans go to warehouses.

Besides fish, the cannery packs 150 tons of crab and fruits a year.

The section for giving flavor to products turns out some 3.5 tons a day in a shift, and the section for processing cans of food in boiling water, 20 tons.

In the cannery, there are also a tin shop, boiler shop, transformer, water supply and cooling apparatus.

Daily packing production per shift is some 60,000 cans.

The capacity of a boiler is 5,315 calories per hour. And transformers have the capacity of 600 kw. There are also some 200 electric motors.

2,000 cubic metres of fresh water is supplied every day through the water main from a reservoir some six kilometres away.

At the refrigeration shop high-speed freezing machines freeze a block of ice within six hours, the daily output running 20 tons. And there is an ice storage with the capacity of 250 tons. There are also a refrigerator with the capacity of 90 tons, another with the capacity of 140 tons and a storage for 200 tons of refrigerated fish.

Every shop has a dressing-room, showers and recreation facilities.

The cannery is the embodiment of the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea for the improvement of material and cultural standards of the population and a symbol of proletarian internationalism.

SILVERY THREAD PRODUCED

Rehabilitation of the Chungjin Spinning Mill, which suffered heavy damage during the war by the savage bombing of the American imperialists, has been completed. Begun in the early part of 1955, the rehabilitation was completed four months ahead of schedule, and the mill started producing rayon on March 1 last year. Two months later, the mill was successfully turning out staple fibre.

Great difficulties and hardships arose in the course of rehabilitation and construction. But the builders stimulated by the decisions of the Third Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and of the August and December Plenums of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea which called for the speeding up of the rehabilitation of the Chungjin Spinning Mill in order to increase the output of fabrics, worked with might and main to complete the rehabilitation ahead of schedule.

To clear away the debris and prepare the groundwork for new buildings was, of course, no small job. But still more difficult was it to obtain cork for walls and ceilings of the buildings. Cork was necessary to regulate temperature inside the buildings, but it was not readily available.

Creative initiative of the builders helped to cope with the difficulties. There were proposals for substituting peat for cork. Korea has abundant deposits of peat, which is used both as fuel and fertilizer. Peat proved to be a good substitute. The builders advanced more than 170 new ideas and rationalization proposals to help in the rapid rehabilitation of the rayon shop.

In building the rayon shop alone, the builders economized over sixty thousand man-days of labour, and saved the State some 2,680,000 won by utilizing materials lying idle.

In the course of rehabilitation, the mill was newly equipped and harmful working conditions eliminated. It is now furnished with latest equipment.

With the introduction of Soviet experiences, the spinning shop is now free from any harmful effects on the workers as the poisonous gas is removed by exhaust devices. In the pulping process, too, conditions harmful to workers' health are improved.

However, before the mill was put into operation, another serious question loomed. It was the question of the shortage of technical and skilled workers. The management, helped by the organization of the Workers' Party in the mill, set up a training course in the factory.

In order to improve the skill of workers exhibition production was organized. As a result, in two and a half months spinners improved their skill, each operating 75 spindles. Since then skilled workers have been increased in number.

The management opened a chemical school attached to the mill and began to train systematically technical personnel. The school has two courses, day-time and evening, and now some 600 students are enrolled in the three departments of chemistry, electricity and machine-buildings.

The mill has built dwelling houses for 600 families, and dormitories accommodating 2,200. It has also a nursery, a club and an evening rest home.

Rehabilitated and furnished with latest equipment, the mill will turn out 6-7 times more than in the prewar days, and employ 30 per cent more workers. Daily output of rayon has increased to five tons from four tons before the war.

2,000 tons of rayon and staple fibre are now being produced, which means 20 million metres of rayon.

Manager Bai Suk Joo acquainted me with the prospects of the Mill.

1958 will be a crucial year in the rehabilitation of the mill. The project of a staple fibre shop with an area of 8,000 square metres will be completed. And many rooms and shops now bare of installation will receive latest model machines. By 1960, annual production of rayon will reach 3,500 tons and staple fibre 11,500 tons.

To supply more fabrics to the population, workers here are accelerating the speed of construction.

The Boobyuk-roo Pavilion

The city of Pyongyang is being built into a more beautiful, modern city.

Boulevards are being laid throughout the city, and multi-storied apartment buildings line the streets. Since it is an old city, it is rich in historical relics, many of which suffered severe damage during the war. But restoration work has been going on actively, and just recently the Boobyuk-roo Pavilion was recovered from war wounds.

The name of Pyongyang reminds the Korean of the Moranbong Hill, which cannot be thought of apart from Boobyuk-roo Pavilion. Capping the steep precipices of the Chungryoo Cliff overlooking the Taidong River it commands a wonderful view.

The willow-dotted Neungra Island is like a jewel setting in the midst of the gently flowing Taidong.

And the Keumsoo-san (silk embroidered) Hills stand in the background with the graceful Choiseung-dai Pavilion to add the beauty.

This is the very spot, as tradition has it, where a well-known Kokuryo poet named Kim Hwang Wun stood. Enchanted by the bewitching nature, he poured out his thoughts in song. The first few lines went something like this:

"Along the high cliff wall
Flows the gentle stream of the Taidong,
And yonder across the river
Stretch carpets of green
With velvet like mounds rising
Against the far eastern horison . . ."

But here he stopped as he could go no further.

His poetic talents were so wanting, he realized, to sing this beautiful nature. He just stood and wept as he gazed on such beauty of nature.

It was in the years of King Sosoorim, Kokuryo Dynasty, that the pavilion was built as a separate building of the Yungmyung-sa Temple, one of the nine Buddhist temples in Pyongyang at that time. Its original name was Yungmyung-roo pavilion. However, from the era of King Euijong, Koryu Dynasty, in the beginning of the 12th century, the pavilion was given the present name of "Boobyuk-roo", meaning "floating above the cliff." (Incidentally the Yungmyung-sa Temple had been preserved until it was destroyed by the American air pirates during the Fatherland Liberation War.)

Through history this pavilion has been a place for the people in time of peace to enjoy the beauties of nature, especially in the moonlit night, and in war time it served as an important defence position for defending Pyongyang.

The pavilion, once rebuilt in 1614 and repaired thrice, in 1773, 1914 and again in 1948 after liberation, was severely damaged by the American's kill-all-and-destroy-all bombings, on January 5, 1951, and on August 4, 1951.

In spring of 1956, the restoration work of the pavilion started under the guidance of the Cultural Relics Preservation Department, Ministry of Education and Culture, and it has been completely restored to its original form.

The Boobyuk-roo Pavilion will be preserved with care and affection as one of our precious historical remains.

Colonial Lopsidedness of South Korean Economy

KIM KYOO KUL

THE colonial lopsidedness and unevenness of the South Korean economy resulting from the U.S. imperialists' policy of militarizing and enslaving South Korea are going from bad to worse.

To examine the occupational composition of the population, approximately 80 per cent of the total employed are engaged in primitive agriculture.

The number of the workers in the domain of industry and mining accounts for less than 2 per cent of the total employed. And even these are engaged in small-scale handicraft at out-of-date factories with less than 10 employees.

	Agriculture		Industry		Mining		Commerce		Transport		Government office employees and professionals		Others		Total	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
*December 31, 1949	79.9	100	3.3	100	0.4	100	4.7	100	0.9	100	5.2	100	5.6	100	100	
**December 31, 1953	79.1	99	2.8	85	0.3	85	5.6	119	0.9	100	5.2	100	6.1	111	100	
***December 31, 1956	78.3	98	1.6	48	0.3	85	6.3	134	0.8	89	6.1	117	6.6	120	100	

A: Percentage of the total employed
B: Annual proportion of change
* Data released by the "Statistical Board under the Ministry of Interior" of the South Korean puppet government, pages 1-8, 1956 issue of *Almanac of Economy*.
** Data released by the "Statistical Board under the Public Information Bureau" of the South Korean puppet government, page 11 of the Statistical Section, 1956 issue of *Almanac of Economy*.
*** Data of the "Statistical Board under the Ministry of Interior" of the South Korean puppet government published on May 27, 1957 issue of the *World Daily*.

Firstly, these figures indicate that the South Korean economy has not yet done away with the colonial imbalance between agriculture and industry left over by the Japanese imperialists' rule, although it has been twelve years since the August Fifteen Liberation. More, it has tended to worsen.

As of December 31, 1956, the agricultural population accounted for 78.3 per cent of the total people of occupation — an increase of 10.2 per cent over the 68.1 per cent as of December 31, 1943, at the close of the Japanese imperialist rule. On the contrary, the proportion of the industrial population in the total employed dropped from 5 to 1.6 per cent in the same period.

It is noticeable that the increase-rate of the agricultural population is much higher than the decrease-rate of the industrial population. What is more grave is the fact that the proportion of the South Korean industrial population has been sharply decreasing since the U.S. imperialists occupied South Korea. In other words, the share of the industrial population, which was 5 per cent in the closing years of the Japanese imperialist rule, had fallen to 3.3 per cent by the end of 1949, in four and a half years under the rule of the U.S. imperialists. It had again dropped to 2.8 per cent by the end of 1953 and to 1.6 per cent by the end of 1956.

The U.S. imperialists sent their surplus goods into South Korea in the form of "aid". As a result, the national economy of South Korea with a weak economic foundation has been driven into total bankruptcy. No wonder large numbers of factories and enterprises have been closed down in South Korea.

Thus, the economy of South Korea under the occupation of the U.S. imperialists, the colonial imbalance between industry and agriculture has been further aggravated, especially in the post-war period.

This is indicative of the fact that the colonial enslavement policy of the U.S. imperialists towards South Korea is more ruthlessly restricting the development of the South Korean economy than the Japanese imperialists did in the past and forcing it back into an out-of-date and backward state.

It may well be said that the colonial enslavement policy of the U.S. imperialists is far more reactionary and anti-popular than that of the Japanese imperialists in the past both in checking the development of productive forces and in imposing hard toil and poverty upon the people.

Secondly, it is noticeable in this table that the imbalance between the production domain and indirect and non-production domain, especially between industry and commerce, is growing.

As of December 31, 1956, the proportion of the commercial population in the total employed persons in South Korea stood at 6.3 per cent—roughly 3 times that of the industrial population. (The share of the industrial population is 1.9 per cent when those who are engaged in mining are included.)

Noteworthy is it that while the South Korean industrial population is sharply decreasing, the commercial population is swelling. The number of persons engaged in trade has grown to 4.7 per cent as of December 31, 1949 and again to 6.3 per cent in December 31, 1956.

How is this lack of balance between industry and business to be explained?

Direct production domains are agriculture, industry and mining. The South Korean agriculture confines itself to the production of grain owing to the U.S. imperialists' agricultural policy of restricting the growing of cotton and other industrial crops.

The South Korean agriculture does not make direct contact with commerce as a supplier. The peasants cannot secure surplus grain to give out to markets owing to the spot-plundering policy of the U.S. imperialists.

In South Korea industry alone can be said to have a direct contact with commerce. But, due to the fact that the industrial output falls far below the home requirements and is unable to sustain itself in the competition with the commodities of the U.S. monopolists both in quality and in production costs, the South Korean commerce depends, de facto, upon the U.S. surplus commodities shipped into South Korea in the form of "aid" or private trade rather than upon the South Korean industry.

Therefore, most of the South Korean traders are not linked, even indirectly, with production in the South Korean economy.

The fact that the proportion of the commercial population is far bigger than industrial population is an important aspect of the colonial lopsidedness. The aggravation of this lopsidedness means the further subordination of the South Korean economy to the U.S. imperialists.

The abnormal phenomenon of the commercial population being quadruple that of the industrial population results, as pointed out in the South Korean press, from the fact that, with the social contradictions caused by the bankruptcy of industry and overflowing surplus labour in the rural areas becoming acute, a large crowd of people expelled from these domains have been concentrated to the commercial centre with the hope of eking out a living. (May 1956 issue, "Finance", pp. 46-56)

Therefore, it will be more to the point to regard the overwhelming majority of the South Korean commercial population, with the exception of a small number of comprador capitalists and brokers, as the virtual unemployed.

But here the situation is different from other capitalist countries, such as Britain and the United States, where the proportion of the population engaged in business pursuits and public catering is big because these spheres ensure higher incomes than agriculture and industry.

By reducing South Korea to a monopoly market for their surplus commodities through their colonial enslavement policy, the U.S. imperialists are nailing down the proportion of the industrial population and increasing the number of shopless merchants who are barely eking out a meagre livelihood on U.S. commodities.

It is natural that this colonial enslavement policy of the U.S. imperialists should become the focus of the grudge and hatred not only of the South Korean workers, but also of the national capitalists comprising medium and small enterprisers.

The yearly growing colonial lopsidedness of the South Korean economy can be seen also in the proportion of different production domains in the "gross national output value," as in the composition of the employed population.

	Agriculture		Industry		Mining		Commerce		Public catering		Others		Total	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
1949*	54	100	10	100	1	100	8	100	7	100	20	100	100	
1952*	51	94	11	110	1	100	7	87	11	157	19	95	100	
1954**	41.5	77	6.2	62	1.4	140	15.8	197	10.2	146	24.9	125	100	
1955**	35.1	65	7.6	76	1.8	180	20.4	255	8	114	27.1	136	100	
1956***	44.3	82	8.1	81	0.9	90	11.8	147	17.6	251	17.3	87	100	
1957***	44	81	7.4	74	0.8	80	10.7	134	19.8	283	17.3	87	100	

A: Percentage of gross output in national economy
B: Annual proportion
* Computed from statistics in page 9, February 1955 issue, *Monthly Statistics of Bank of Korea.*
** Computed from data, pages 1-217, *Almanac of Economy,* 1956.
*** Computed from statistics on page 217, October 1956 issue of *Finance.*

The share of the South Korean industrial output in the "gross national production value" (According to the South Korean press "gross national production value" covers agriculture, industry, mining, commerce, public services, etc.) sharply dropped. In 1949 it stood at 10 per cent, whereas it was 39 per cent in pre-liberation 1940. Since then the proportion of the industrial output has made another big drop—8.1 per cent in 1956 and, it is estimated at 7.4 per cent in 1957.

Thus, the imbalance between agriculture and industry in the South Korean economy is worsening year after year owing to the colonial, militarization and enslavement policy of the U.S. imperialists. Whereas the ratio between agriculture and industry was roughly 5:1 in 1949, it is estimated at 6:1 in 1957.

The proportion of commerce, including public catering, is estimated at over 30 per cent in 1957 or almost 4 times, the 8 per cent of industry, mining industry included.

As mentioned above, today the share of the South Korean industrial output has dropped far below that in 1940 under the Japanese imperialist rule, and by 26 per cent in comparison with the pre-war 1949. Meanwhile the proportion of commerce has more than doubled that of the pre-war 1949.

It has already been explained what the daily worsening unevenness, that is, colonial lopsidedness between industry and commerce of South Korea means.

The proportion of the South Korean industry is extremely smaller than other domains and is declining. Moreover, the unevenness between the production of the means of production and that of consumption goods (the basic question concerning colonial lopsidedness) is growing.

This is clearly proved by the lack of balance between different industrial domains in South Korea.

	HEAVY INDUSTRY				LIGHT INDUSTRY				The Sum Total
	Metal-lurgical	Machine building	Chemical	Total	Textile	Food	Others	Total	
1) 1949	4	6	28	38	41	13	8	62	100
2) 1953	1	1	11	13	26	32	29	87	100
3) 1954	2	5	12	19	39	36	6	81	100
3) 1955	3	3	14	20	36	35	9	80	100

1: *Chosun Minbo* published in Japan, January 1, 1957.
2: *Almanac of Economy,* 1956, pp. 1-94
3: *Almanac of Economy,* 1956, pp. 1-94

Even according to their incorrect official data, the ratio between the output of heavy industry, including the chemical industry, and light industry was 1:1.6 in the pre-war 1949 and 1:4 in 1955.

Such colonial lopsidedness in the composition of industry was all the more clearly revealed by the proportion of the employed in different industrial domains as of October 3, 1955.

Whereas the ratio between the output of heavy industry and light industry was 1:4, that in the number of the employees was 1:8.

As for output in value and the ratio of employees, light industry is heavily preponderant in South Korea. This characteristic colonial lopsidedness is going headlong from bad to worse.

It is a generally known fact that the colonial lopsidedness has virtually deprived the South Korean economy, industry in particular, of its independence, and this constitutes a basic factor in hastening its complete subordination to the United States.

The ever worsening colonial lopsidedness in the composition of the South Korean economy fostered by the U.S. imperialists is attended by the acceleration of the bankruptcy and ruin of the South Korean economy and is driving the working people into the abyss of unemployment and poverty.

	HEAVY INDUSTRY				LIGHT INDUSTRY					Total
	Metal-lurgical	Machine building	Others	Total	Textile	Food	Rubber	Others	Total	
Proportion of employees *(in percentage)*	2.3	2.8	6.2	11.0	41.6	14.3	6.6	26.3	89.0	100.0

Computed from data in page 198, Statistical Section, *Almanac of Economy,* 1956, and *Industrial Economy News,* of April 26, 1956.

In the Korean Press

The Soviet Peace Move Welcomed

RECENTLY a number of important international events of two different trends are widely commented on in the Korean press.

The Korean public through the major international events of the past months is convinced more clearly of the correctness of the assessment of the present international situation stated in the documents of the conferences of Communist and Workers' Parties held in Moscow on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution.

Accordingly, the Korean people welcomed the new peace initiative taken by the Soviet Government in opposition to the frenzied schemes of the imperialists to unleash another war. Indeed the Soviet Government was in conformity with the Moscow declaration that the preservation of peace is the prime task of progressive mankind. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. and the Soviet Government addressed notes and memoranda to the heads of the governments of the Nato and the United Nations member states.

These Soviet moves have evoked a lively response among the people of our country and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a statement in support of the Soviet Government's initiative.

The Soviet Government proposed that the governments of the U.S.S.R., U.S.A. and U.K. restrain from using nuclear weapons and declare a halt to tests of these weapons from January 1, 1958, for a duration of two or three years at least. It further proposed to eliminate the threat of war in Europe and normalize the situation in the Near and Middle East.

In view of this our Government has declared that the proposals of the Soviet Government were the most reliable means of preventing war and consolidating and preserving lasting world peace.

The statement issued by the Government of the D.P.R.K. went on:

"In giving all-out support and full endorsement to the proposals of the Soviet Government, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which is making every effort to maintain a lasting peace in Asia and the world, is convinced that the realization of these proposals is not only in keeping with the interest of lasting world peace but also will undoubtedly serve towards the maintenance of peace in Korea and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question."

The peace proposals of the Soviet Government were true reflections of the desires of hundreds of millions of people who want all disputed issues to be solved by peaceful means and an end put to the arms race and cold war. These proposals tended greatly to strengthening the faith of all the people of good-will in their endeavours to seek ways to preserve peace and remove the threat of another war.

The *Rodong Shinmoon* wrote editorially under the heading "Repeated Peace Initiative of the Soviet Union":

"It is crystal clear to those who value the welfare and destiny of hundreds of millions of people, that there is no reason whatever for refusing the just proposals of the Soviet Government. If one wishes peace earnestly, he cannot possibly find any ground for not agreeing to a stop of tests of nuclear weapons."

Time and again reasonable proposals have been advanced by the Soviet Government.

The peaceful voice of the Soviet Union carried all the more weight after its great success in launching two artificial satellites and in testing the inter-continental ballistic rockets, thereby proving to everyone that in the scientific and military fields the Soviet Union is far superior to the imperialist powers.

The Soviet Union threatens no one but insists constantly that the inter-continental ballistic rockets and atomic and hydrogen weapons for criminal war purposes be banned and the great achievements of science be placed at the service of mankind. This fact has brought profound joy to all peoples throughout the world.

Though their policy of "positions of strength", based on the illusion of U.S. "superiority" over the Soviet Union has been shaken to its foundation, the imperialist aggressive circles continue to play with fire. And people throughout the world cannot help feeling apprehensive.

The publications of our country opposed and condemned a series of plots worked out at the Nato Council meeting held in Paris at the end of last year under the sway of the American ruling circles.

Under the caption, "Curb the fire play of atomic war maniacs!" the *Minjoo Chosun* wrote editorially:

"At the recent Nato Council meeting the U.S. and its followers attempted to extend the Nato beyond the limits of Europe into an atrocious military bloc against the people of the Near and Middle East, Asian and African countries and to drag the Baghdad Treaty and SEATO members into it. They were using the Nato in interferring in and hindering the Indonesian people's just struggle for the recovery of West Irian. However, faced with concerted pressure from the public they finally had to make some move on holding a conference at Foreign-Minister level to seek a settlement of the deadlocked disarmament issue. The fact that they had to make a few comments on peace testifies that no one is in a position to ignore the will of the people for peace."

At the same time, the newspaper pointed out the sharp differences and aggravating contradictions in the imperialist camp manifested at the Nato Council meeting.

The Nato sessions revealed that the U.S. cannot boss around as it used to and its "allies" are less willing to follow its lead. Therefore, it is not difficult to understand that certain western European Nato countries are stubbornly opposed to setting up nuclear and rocket bases on their territories.

Although the Nato countries accepted "in principle" the American plan, the results were a far cry from what the U.S. ruling circles had at first hoped for, the paper pointed out.

The *Rodong Shinmoon*, winding up its leading article entitled, "War plot squeezed out amidst contradictions of the Nato Council meeting," said:

"Especially at the recent Nato Council meeting, despite the stern objection of Eisenhower and Dulles, most of the members urged that due attention be paid to the proposals advanced by Bulganin and negotiations with the Soviet Union be held before measures are taken to set up rocket bases. All these revealed clearly how they regard with uneasiness and abhorrence the new military strategic plan of the U.S.A.

"The Nato meeting has shown most clearly that the U.S. frantic war plans isolated it even from its 'allies' and its prestige has collapsed irretrievably."

Our leading papers unanimously stressed that in the most important scientific fields of inter-continental ballistic rocket, artificial earth satellites and peaceful use of atomic power, the U.S. is lagging far behind the Soviet Union, and American "prestige" has fallen to the ground with the "Vanguard."

Today, the American aggressive policy is on the brink of total crisis.

No attempt of the American ruling circles can hold back the great tide of our epoch: victory of socialism in the peaceful competition with capitalism.

The only way out, as the Soviet Government has been stressing, is peaceful co-existence.

The correctness of the Moscow Declaration, which pointed out that the question of "war or peaceful co-existence" was a vital problem in current world politics, is further confirmed by a number of recent international events manifesting two different trends.

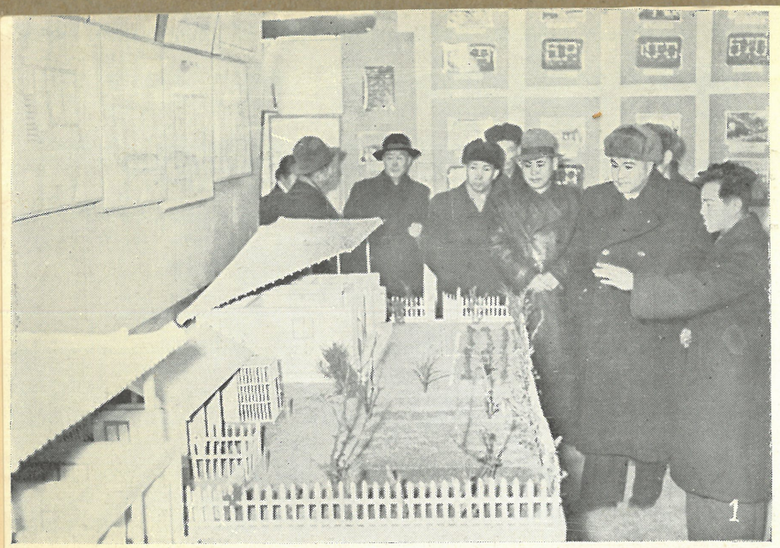
The Korean people are fully convinced that the powerful socialist camp and world peace forces can frustrate any aggressive attempt of the imperialists and defend the cause of peace with honour.

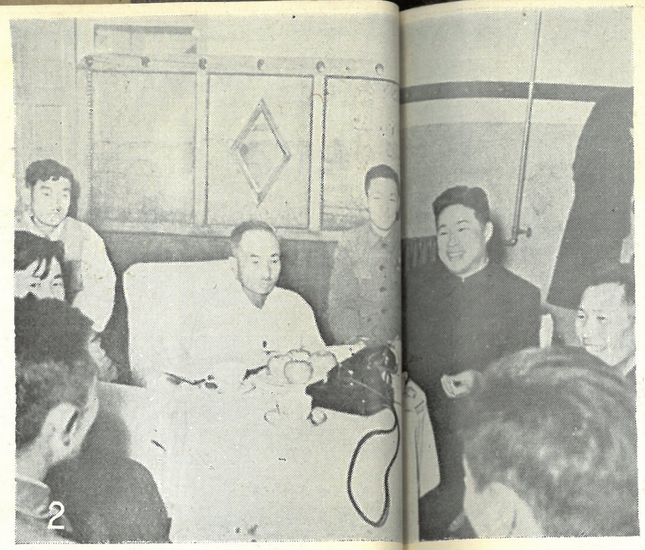
LEADERS AMONG THE PEOPLE FOR ON-THE-SPOT GUIDANCE

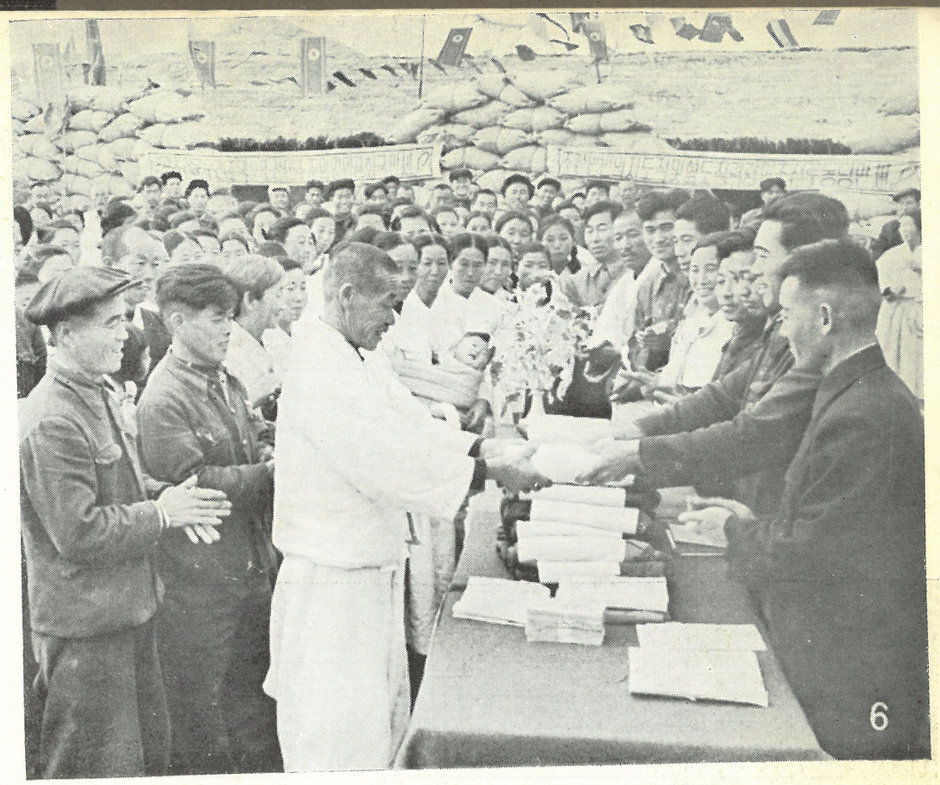
Premier Kim Il Sung and Pak Jung Ai, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, talking with peasants during the recess of the meeting of active agricultural co-op members in South Hwanghai Province

1957 saw the greatest harvest ever reaped in the northern part of the country showing a figure of 3.2 million tons of grain. This signifies the triumph of the agricultural policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

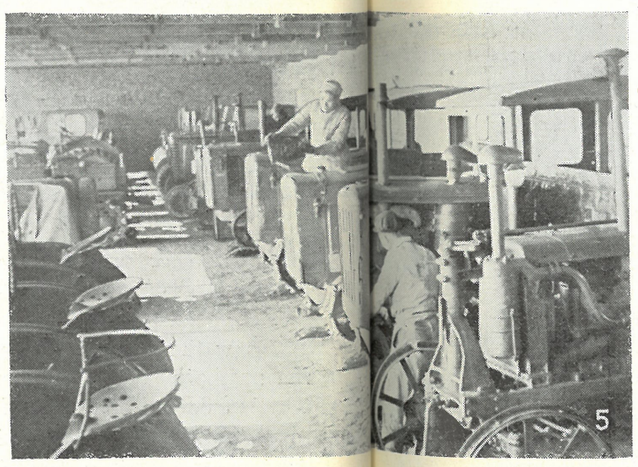
To give on-the-spot guidance to peasants, Premier Kim Il Sung and other Party and Government leaders went to the countryside and attended meetings which peasants called to sum up the results of their farming on the basis of the decisions of the December (1956) Plenum of the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea.





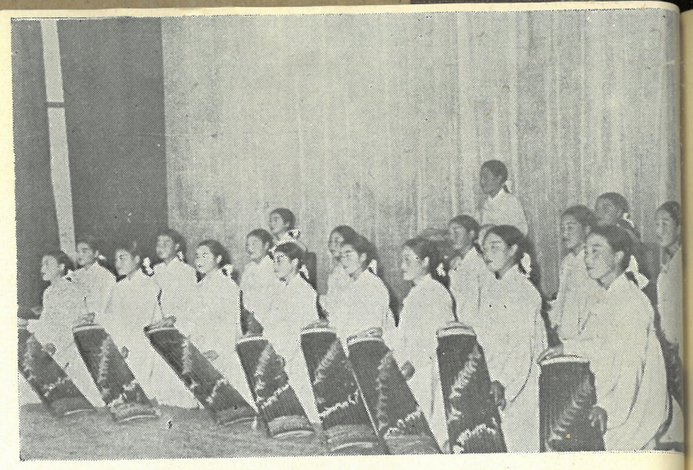


1. Choi Yong Kun, President of ...idium of the D.P.R.K. Supreme People's Assembly, visiting...trial and Agricul ural Pavilion in South Hamkyung Provin...e was in the province to give on-the-spot guidance
2. Vice-Premier Kim Il talking wi... members of North Pyongan Province
3. Vice-Premier Nam Il talking ...op members of North Hwanghai Province
4. Kim Chang Man, Vice-Chairman ...tral Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, chatting ...op members of South Pyongan Province
5. Check up on tractors for spring ...
6. Co-op members are receiving th... They have overfulfilled their assignments for increased pr...
7. Co-op members busy laying out ... for a higher yield of rice



LIFE OF ARMYMEN ON OUTPOSTS

Men and officers of the Korean People's Army, fighters of peace, enjoy song and dance in their leisure hour. And performances of various art circles win great popularity with the armymen and villagers.



Army women performing Kayakeum, one of Korean stringed instruments

Dancing depicting the army life

A scene from the variety show, "A Company's Merry Time"

Power Industry in Korea

KIM DOO SAM

THE RAPID development of power industry in our country is a prerequisite for the priority development of heavy industry with the simultaneous progress of light industry as well as for the socialist transformation of agriculture.

Our country, with its abundant hydropower resources, has favourable conditions for the development of power generation.

It was in 1887 that electricity was introduced first in our country, but its use was very limited. It was after the year 1910 when the Japanese imperialists occupied Korea that the hydropower resources began to be exploited in line with their colonial plundering policy of Korea.

The Japanese imperialists were especially interested in cheap power generation from the standpoint of huge profit.

But all of those hydropower stations undertaken by the Japanese colonialists were built by the sweat and blood of the Korean people.

The Samtai-ri Hydropower Station with the capacity of 350 kw in Moonchun County, Kangwon Province, the first in Korea (1913), the Sangpyung-ri Hydropower Station with the capacity of 235 kw, the Keumgang-san, Boojun-gang, Jangjin-gang, Huchun-gang, Booryung and then the Soopoong hydropower stations were built in succession.

However, all these power stations were erected solely for the pursuit of profits by a number of Japanese Zaibatsu.

Consequently, the power stations were furnished with different kinds of machines for the same purpose. This made repairing work very difficult.

The structure of dams was too crude to stand long. And diverse stages of voltage and frequency were set without taking geographical conditions into consideration, which caused irrationality of electric supply system, the lack of link between the eastern and western lines in particular.

After August 15 Liberation when our country was freed from the Japanese imperialists' yoke by the great Soviet Army, our power industry was confronted with the question of removing the defects in the course of rebuilding power stations. However, the overall replacement of the installations would require a long time and a large amount of funds. Therefore, at first, measures were taken for repairing power generation facilities. The reinforcement of the apron of the Soopoong Dam, started in 1947, was finished before the flood season of 1949.

There are some 500 places along large and small rivers suitable for power generation, of which 64 have the capacity of generating 8 million kw of electricity. But the capacity of generating power is so far less than 1.8 million kw. The untapped power resources will gradually be harnessed to serve the welfare of the people in their socialist construction.

In developing power resources the Korean people had to surmount many obstacles.

First of all, the precious power generating installations, built by the sweat and blood of the Korean people, were badly damaged by the Japanese imperialists in August, 1945 when they were driven out of Korea.

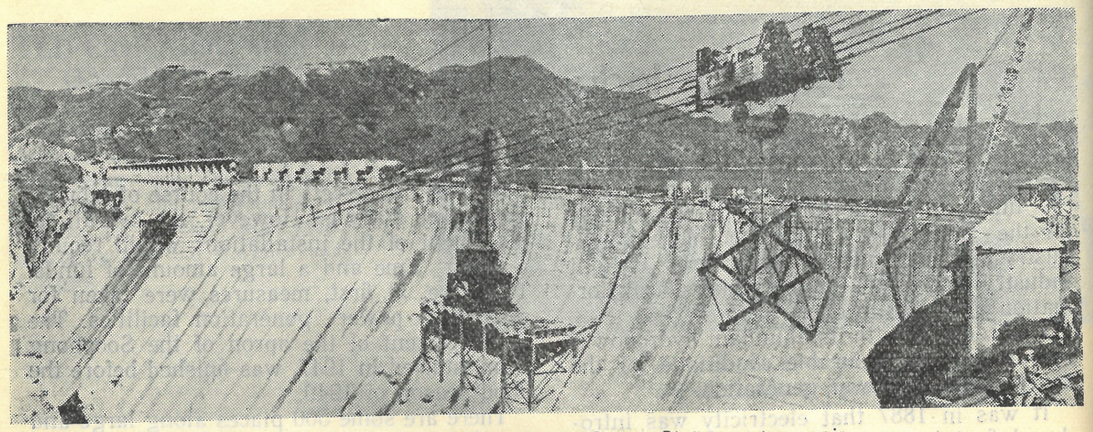
Secondly, they suffered severe damage from the American imperialists' bombings during the Fatherland Liberation War.

The damage done by the Japanese imperialists was completely healed thanks to the enthusiastic labour struggle waged by the Korean working people with inexhaustible energy during the period of the One-Year Plan and the Two-Year Plan after liberation.

As a result, material and technical foundations for converting our country from a backward agrarian country into an industrial-agrarian country were laid during the period of peaceful construction.

The volume of electric power generation in 1947 rose to 141.8 per cent as against 1946, 145.4 per cent in 1948 and 150.2 per cent in 1949, thus showing a gradual increase.

However, the peaceful construction was interrupted by the war provoked by the American imperialist aggressors. The whole country was subject to their wanton destruction and the power plants were no exception. More than 70 per cent of all their installations were reduced to ashes.



Dam of the Soopoong Hydro-electric Power Station under repair

After the war the Workers' Party of Korea set down a general line at the 6th Plenum of the C.C. of the Party to rehabilitate and develop and raise all the branches of national economy to the pre-war level in three years.

The basic line, however, was not only to rehabilitate the war-devastated economy but to ensure the priority development of heavy industry simultaneously with the rapid development of light industry and agriculture for the stabilization and enhancement of the deteriorated people's living standard in consideration of elimination of the colonial lopsidedness left over from the protracted misrule of the Japanese imperialists, and the laying of the foundation for the socialist industrialization of the country.

Referring to the task Premier Kim Il Sung said:

"The ever increasing demand for electricity in all branches of the national economy must be satisfied by rehabilitating all existing power stations, by perfecting the facilities for generating, by completing installations for supplying and transforming electricity according to the capacity of the present power stations, and by constructing new ones."

In the post-war days the workers of power stations have made every effort to carry out the task set by the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K.

Since the war, scores of generators have been completely rehabilitated, thousands of metres of power lines installed, and many large-scale transformer substations rehabilitated or newly built.

Especially the Soopoong Hydropower Station has been reconstructed with part of the one billion rouble gift of the great Soviet people. The assembly work of six generators out of seven has already been completed with the technical aid of the Soviet experts, and the installation of the last one is now making brisk headway, and it will be commissioned in a few months.

With the technical backwardness left over from the Japanese imperialists being removed, the power station with the capacity of 700,000 kva will be equipped with the advanced Soviet technique. And the dam, which had many leaks due to the poor construction and damage suffered during the war, has been completely repaired and reinforced with the technical aid of the Soviet Union.

The hydropower stations in the eastern districts including the Boojun-gang Hydropower Station are also under reconstruction with the technical and economic aid of the fraternal Czechoslovak people.

Thus the technical backwardness and the irrationality which existed in the distribution of power stations are being removed. At present our power generation follows the line of automation.

Good results were attained in reconstruction. Consequently the volume of the electric power production increased by 399.5 per cent in 1956 as compared with 1953.

The plan for 1957, the first year of the First Five-Year Plan, was successfully carried out thanks especially to the creative labour struggle of the entire working people who have risen up for the realization of the economic policy of the Party and Government.

The workers of the Soopoong Hydropower Station had carried out their yearly target of electric power production for 1957 by November 5. They are further intensifying their labour struggle to supply all the branches of the national economy with more electric power.

The most important task for the development of power generation in our country, as outlined at the Third Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, is to make the existing installations perfect and to construct new power stations according to the vast long-term plan for the country's industrialization.

Now the construction of the Tokro-gang Hydropower Station, which will generate 90,000 kva of electricity, is under way, and construction of the Kanggye Hydropower Station with the capacity of 246,000 kva has also started.

These new stations are being built by the Korean workers who have accumulated much experience and learned from the Soviet Union and other advanced countries.

It is expected that the Tokro-gang Hydropower Station will be commissioned in 1959, the third year of the Five-Year Plan and the Kanggye Hydropower Station by the end of the Five-Year Plan. And by the end of 1961, the last year of the First Five-Year Plan period, the volume of the gross output of electric power will go up to over 9.5 billion kwh.

The development of power industry is necessitated by our economic policy of effecting socialist industrialization. And at the same time it provides a prerequisite for perfecting socialist transformation of agriculture and electrification of rural villages.

Today, when the cooperativization of agriculture has won a brilliant victory, the most important task is to introduce better farming methods and farm implements and to construct farm villages culturally.

The electric power industry set itself the task of drawing up the 10-Year Plan for the development of rural villages in accordance with the decision of the October (1957) Plenum of the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea.

At present in rural villages more than 110,000 h.p. motors are installed for irrigation purpose. Nearly one half of the total electric lights is used by peasant households. And the demand for electric power is further growing.

The power resources in our country, which are to be further exploited, will be used to build more irrigation systems, facilitating river transport, regulating climate, thereby enhancing steadily the material and cultural living standard of the people and promoting the prosperity of the country.

But, in South Korea where the U.S. imperialist army is stationed the national economy has become bankrupt and the people are in the mire of poverty.

Power generation is not an exception. The power sources in South Korea are limited to start with. But things are in a bad way due to the American imperialists' policy of disrupting the national economy. They are not able to satisfy even the demand of the people for light, let alone the supply of electric power for industry.

It is no wonder the entire Korean people demand earnestly that the U.S. imperialist occupationists should quit South Korea immediately.

The entire workers of the power generating plants are inspired by the brilliant achievements made in our country as a member of the socialist camp with the great Soviet Union in the van and have a firm conviction in the final victory. They have risen up in the struggle for the development of our power generation in accordance with the line set forth by the Third Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

They will, without doubt, strive more earnestly to implement the revolutionary task of promoting the country's socialist industrialization by introducing boldly advanced technique on the basis of achievements and experiences attained in our industry.

Lumberjack

SUH HONG RIN

THE panting gasoline railway car, having crept along 40 km of narrow-gauge road up the steep mountains, came to a stop at the Yoopyung-dong station, 1,450 metres above sea level, on the Paikmoo line which runs through the mountainous regions of North Hamkyung and Ryanggang provinces, the northernmost provinces in Korea. I got off and the car rolled on again.

I saw at a little distance away a settlement. This must be the lumbermen's village.

Ikesoo, a timber village

Soon I arrived and with little trouble found the office of the Ikesoo lumber camp of the Yoopyung Lumbering Centre of Ryanggang Province.

I was told that the Ikesoo lumber camp was set up in 1953, one of the six camps under the Yoopyung Lumbering Centre.

From time immemorial this area remained a primeval forest zone where nothing but the echoes of the rustling, withered branches and the howling of wild beasts disturbed the dead stillness.

Even during the 36 years (1910-1945) of the Japanese colonial rule this region remained outside the reach of the evil hands of Japanese imperialists, who robbed our country of nearly 500 million cubic metres of timber.

This forest land of some 60,000 hectares has about 7,750,000 cubic metres of timber resources. In the centre of the zone is situated the Yoopyung-dong district, halfway up the Paikmoo mountain range. And 7,000 hectares of this virgin forest zone which has 1,500,000 cubic metres of lumber of larch, cryptomeria, silver fir, birch, etc. is covered by the Ikesoo lumber camp.

It was only three years ago when this region first saw human beings. But today there are 145 snug and cosy houses in the hamlet, besides a primary school, a club house, a hospital, a kindergarten and other cultural and welfare establishments. Some of the highland families have radios and gramophones.

The life of the lumbermen is unrecognizable compared with the hard lot they had under the Japanese colonial rule. Today, when they make their way through the deep snow to the lumbering grounds up the mountains, their hearts swell with the highest pride in their job. Because they know that the very lumber they cut will be sent to build factories and houses all over the country.

While the lumberjacks fight with nature in the primeval forests, their wives produce food-stuffs and other sorts of daily necessities in the producers' co-op, bringing more income to their families.

The total volume of business of the Ikesoo co-op shop in the second half of 1957 nearly doubled that in the corresponding period of 1956. This points to the fact that the lumber workers' living has been remarkably bettered.

A lumber worker's average monthly earning has markedly increased. In addition, every year they are given free of charge a well-wadded winter suit, a pair of winter boots, a winter cap, two work suits, 6 pairs of work shoes and varieties of food-stuffs.

Of late, the workers have been happy to see a greater part of their physical labour give way to mechanization with a result of greater volume of logs with less and easier work.

Grateful from the bottom of their hearts for the profound concern of the Party and Government for their welfare, all the lumberjacks in the depth of these mountains have come out with greater enthusiasm to work harder for more lumber.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution the workers of the Yoopyung Lumbering Center wrote to the workers of the Machine-building Factory of Kharkov. The letter said in part:

"We extend to the entire Soviet peoples and to you in particular heartfelt gratitude and warm greetings for the constant, generous aid and for the technical assistance you rendered us.

"The TL-5 skidders, sent us by the Soviet people and installed here with the help of Engineer Vasilyev, have enabled us to overfulfil everyday our plan by 65 per cent on the average."

"You ought to see how the TL-5 skidder works" said Song In Tai, vice-chairman of the Party committee at the Center. "Yet, mightier than the machinery are the great power of the Korean-Soviet friendship and the devoted labour of our lumberjacks who are encouraged by the friendship of the Soviet people."

I and my guide Kim Chuk Ok were on the way to the lumbering ground about 6 kilometres from the settlement. The higher up we went along the meandering railway, the denser became the forest. There was nothing but trees all around, huge trees more than an arm's span around.

Soon the sounds of machine could be heard.

"Which section would you like to go to first?" asked my guide. "There are four mechanized teams working in this valley. Among them, the Korean-Soviet friendship team vies with the Youth team for bigger production. The Korean-Soviet friendship team had exceeded the 1957 target for increased production by 2 per cent by the end of October, while the Youth team had fulfilled their state plan by October 15."

Trees are cut by electric saw

We went to the Youth team's section. Work was in full swing. The TL-5 skidder hummed. The machine does all sorts of work. It not only supplies current for the electric saws, but hauls in about 5-6 tons of logs at once by a long cable from a place some 500-600 metres away. And it also can load logs on flatcars.

The electric saw hummed, and then came the thunderous crash of the falling tree. It presents really a spectacular sight.

The TL-5 skidders first appeared here in this forest zone in early March of 1957. Along with them many Soviet lumbering technicians were sent to Korea to help us. Among them was Engineer Vasilyev who taught the workers of the Yoopyung Lumbering Centre how to operate the machines.

The TL-5 skidders helped the lumber workers to increase sharply the output of logs. Wonderful machines! However, everything was not so smooth when the machines were installed. Operation of the machines couldn't be mastered in a day. When they were first introduced, daily production fell to below 70 per cent of the quota. So many workers were reluctant to use the machines.

Training the workers presented an imminent problem.

A lumbermen's meeting was called to review the work carried out during the month of March, 1957. At the meeting team-leader Moon Taik Bum spoke: "At present, the mechanized teams are lagging behind the hand-working teams in their production activities. There are teams that overworked the machines and put them out of order. An end must be put to this kind of practice and efforts should be made to improve our skill, so that we can raise the productivity in the shortest period of time. At the same time a fuller use of manpower should be made by reorganizing the work."

After the meeting, changes took place in all the mechanized teams. Many young lumberjacks like Hu Myung Soon, Li Duk Nyung and Choi Woon Chul started to learn to handle the TL-5 skidder. In order to make rational use of manpower, teams were reduced by one of the haulers, 2 machine caretakers, one machine operator and one loading worker. Thus the number of workers of every team was fixed at 13.

Now the output of logs has gone up markedly. For the first time since the introduction of machines the Youth team fulfilled their assignments. Thus, they topped the increased production plan set for the second quarter of 1957 by 5 per cent.

Now, with the TL-5 skidder working normally, a mechanized team with 13 workers does the work which formerly required 20 workers and 8 head of draught cattle.

This caused a stir among those who at first were against mechanization. They came to realize the advantages of mechanization at last and supported it.

The Yoopyung Lumbering Centre had fulfilled the 1957 plan by November 4, and by the end of the year had overfulfilled the plan for increased production by nearly 10,000 cubic metres of logs, of which 1,040 cubic metres came from the Youth team.

"Let's send as much lumbers as possible to the construction sites of the country!"— this is the fighting slogan of the entire lumber workers here.

To live up to this slogan, the entire lumberjacks are waging a tireless struggle with harsh nature in the depths of the primeval forests.

BIG CUTS IN MEAT AND MILK PRICES

The Government of the D.P.R.K. adopted a decision to cut meat and milk prices as of January 9.

In the city of Pyongyang, the price of pork was reduced by 27 per cent, beef by 30 per cent, mutton by 18 per cent, and milk by 50 per cent. And the prices of liver, kidney, etc. were reduced by 30-50 per cent. Meat and milk prices will be cut accordingly throughout the country.

The post-war years witnessed on several occasions the rise of wages and price cuts. All this is evidence of the constant concern of the Party and the Government for the improvement of the people's living standards.

PRICES AND FARES RISING IN SOUTH KOREA

According to the Haptong Tongshin from Seoul, the Syngman Rhee puppet government has hiked railway freight rates and salt price from January 1, 1958. The railway rates were raised as much as 98 per cent and salt price 20 per cent. By these moves the Syngman Rhee government is to exact another 6 billion hwan from the people annually.

Incidentally the Syngman Rhee government in January last year, raised railway fares, communication fees and the prices of government monopolized goods by 50-180 per cent, which was followed by another 70-80 per cent raise in the railway and marine transport fares on October 10.

For True Happiness

HAN JAI SUNG

KIM In Soon received a letter from Li Hyung Chul, her former schoolmate in Pyongyang after a long silence. The letter was a brief one, but enough to make her heart pound. Hyung Chul asked her to come to Pyongyang, as she had something very important to discuss with her. She said it was about Pak Jong Sup, In Soon's fiance, whom Hyung Chul had seen recently.

At long last words of him had come! He is alive! But, why did he not write to her directly? He should have known where she was if he met Hyung Chul. She could not shake off the thought — why didn't he write? But, of course, she was glad, more than glad.

She and Jong Sup had been in the same Korean Literature Class at the Kim Il Sung University where they first became friends. And in the spring of 1950, just before their graduation they became engaged to each other. How happy she was! With him she had dreamed of a beautiful future.

Then suddenly there came a crash. The American imperialist aggressors invaded this land. Their diabolical thirst for blood seemed insatiable. They stopped at nothing, even the blood of innocent women and children. And even remote hamlets did not escape their savagery.

Against this inhuman enemy the whole nation rose up. Their graduation was only a few days off, but Jong Sup volunteered to serve the country. Shortly afterwards In Soon went to the front as a political worker.

The front line picture changed many times. While in Taejon, South Korea, In Soon was ordered back to teach literature at the Chungjin Senior Middle School. And with the complicated war situation she lost track of Jong Sup. She made every possible effort to find him, but there was no clew as to what had happened to him. Through all these years she has been wondering, in an uncertain frame of mind, about her future husband. Was he alive, or dead? She loved him so much.

She thought he would surely come back when the war ended. She waited. Again the search began. After much effort, she succeeded in locating two of Jong Sup's comrades-in-arms. From them she could establish this much. He went as far as the Rakdong river frontline and at the time of temporary retreat he was seen leading his platoon in Pochun, Kyunggi Province. But that was the last. No more word of him since then.

After the armistice soldiers began returning from the front. To In Soon the whole land seemed to be filled with happy reunions. But where was Jong Sup? What happened to him? She wished she could go to Inchon where he was born. Some one there might know of his whereabouts. But then she checked herself. How could they know when she didn't?

Now word of him! But why didn't he write to her instead of Hyung Chul? Her pride was hurt. She said to herself:

"Doesn't he know what I went through all these years anxiously waiting? He will write to me, he must!"

She waited a week, then two weeks. Then a whole month. But still no letter from him.

At last to free her mind from unhappy thoughts, she decided to find out everything for herself.

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A few days later, she knocked at the door of Hyung Chul's house in Pyongyang.

She had not seen Hyung Chul for several years.

There were many things to talk to each other about. But after a short greeting she asked:

"Where is he?" Hyung Chul, however, did not answer immediately. She looked troubled. After a moment's silence she began slowly.

"In Soon, I don't know how to say this. I know it will be a terrible shock to you. He is lying in a hospital seriously wounded."

Somehow she felt her uncertainty was a little lessened. She had been imagining all sorts of things — he might be married. Now she was much calmer. She knew he would need her more than ever. So she asked Hyung Chul to take her to him without delay. But Hyung Chul continued:

"In Soon, you'd better listen first to what I have to tell you. Your Jong Sup has lost his eyesight!"

"What?"

"I accidentally found him in the Red Cross Hospital when I went to look up a friend of mine. You see, after he lost his eyesight by an enemy bomb on the Eastern Front a few days before the armistice, Jong Sup made up his mind to live his life all alone. It seems a few operations were performed, but with no result. When I found him, he did not even want to tell me he was Jong Sup. But from all the records he could not deny it. He made me swear not to tell you about him. But I just had to tell you!"

The next day In Soon demanded Hyung Chul to take her to the hospital. When they reached the hospital Hyung Chul made her wait in the corridor while she went alone into the patient's room. Suddenly the silence was broken and an angry voice — his voice — rang out from the room.

"How could you? Don't you think I'm suffering enough? Get out! Get out of here!"

She could not wait any longer, but rushed into the room.

There he was! His pleasant face was all disfigured with scars and burns. His body was nothing but bones. Nevertheless it was he. How often she had planned a happy life with him! Before she knew it, tears were rolling down her cheeks. She cried softly:

"Jong Sup, dear Jong Sup. It is I. Your In Soon!" Sobbing she threw herself beside his bed.

How long he had dreamed of her and now she was here! Her gentle hands were touching his face. Oh, his face! If only he could see her!

He did not move, but lay as if frozen, his heart twisted in pain. Time passed...

Then gently he lifted her head and said in a calm voice.

"In Soon, I'm so glad to hear your voice again. But, let's be realistic. There is no reason why two lives should suffer. I have no more right to love you. I can live my own life as I am. So please go. Please! Because I want to be left alone —"

Hyung Chul led her out of the room.

In Soon was haunted by endless pains. She remembered him saying that man should be realistic. Could she spend the rest of her life as a blindman's wife? To this question, she had no answer. In Soon remembered as a teacher of literature how the heroes of Boris Polevoy's "A Story About A Real Man" and W. Wasilewska's "Love" found genuine love and true happiness in the midst of misfortunes. But somehow they appeared to her only as "stories".

Yes, she elaborated at length before her class on the "Tale of Domi" in an old Korean classic. It is the story of Domi's wife who rescued her husband, whose enemy had deprived him of his eyesight, and found a new life together. Didn't she tell the class how worthy and happy Domi's life became with his wife's selfless love and devotion? But how about In Soon herself?

A misfortune overhung her life, and Domi too became just another story.

Could she stand this stern reality? But what about him? What would become of him?

The day before leaving Pyongyang she called at the hospital. But he would not see her. The nurse told her he did not want to see any one.

Repeatedly she asked herself, "What about my future? And Jong Sup's?" The face of Jong Sup, the hospital and everything stood out vividly in her mind.

How happy and full of dreams when they were at the University!

"Jong Sup is suffering," she said to herself, "more than I do because he does not want to darken my life. I know he still loves me. But what about me? Do I still love him, or do I feel all this out of a sense of duty and pity?"

Yes, she could walk out of his room. And he said she should not come back to him. She herself did not know exactly what made her return to the hospital, but when the nurse said that he did not want to see her she calmly turned on her heel and walked out.

"Had I loved him, as I did before, I am sure I would not have left him like that. Would I have come back here to Chungjin leaving him in Pyongyang when he needed me most! It must be that I don't love him any more. No, that's not true. I do love him. And he loves me. And he needs me." Back and forth her thoughts shuttled endlessly. Before her class she spoke of the true love of Domi's wife and their happy life after so many ordeals.

To the class, she quoted from the "Story About A Real Man," what Olya said, "How can one who fears sacrifice love?"

Then the eyes of her pupils seemed to look accusingly at her, asking "What about you, teacher?"

Many an evening In Soon strolled alone along the beach with a heavy heart.

In 1950 she had spent her spring vacation with him here in her native place. Watching the twilight creep across the western sky, they used to stroll along together. Now and then strange seabirds would swoop down over the sea. And the blue sea was dotted with white masts — fishermen coming home. Oh! How happy she had been with him! The sandy beach stretched on endlessly, peaceful and clean. He used to say: "In Soon, when the country is united, we must go to Inchon to see my mother. The sea off Inchon is muddy, not as clear as here. Just the same, I love it."

His words were still ringing in her ears as if they had been spoken only yesterday.

At that time, she could not think of her happiness apart from Jong Sup. What brought this unhappiness to them? It was the enemy — the Americans. They soaked this beautiful land of ours with blood and tried to level even the very mountains! Woe to them!

But we protected this sacred land of ours with our blood. We all fought together. Jong Sup went out to stop the enemy from putting their filthy hands on her, his mother, and this land. She was in deep thought. She thought to herself: "The enemy changed his looks, and even deprived him of his eyesight, but his love for me is not changed. And I love him, too. Am I ashamed to marry a true and faithful man, who gave himself to me and to the fatherland, because he is maimed?"

For the first time in many a night she fell asleep right away, dreaming happy dreams.

She and Jong Sup were collecting shells on the long, white sandy beach. Putting the shells in pairs, In Soon said to him, "Look, Jong Sup, how lonely the shells would be without their partners on this vast seashore!" But, there was no answer. She looked around, but he was not to be seen anywhere.

"Jong Sup!" she kept calling. No answer, but only his footprints on the sands. She hastily followed up the footprints and found him climbing a steep mountain.

"Jong!" She called out, but he seemed not to hear her.

"Wait, Jong Sup!" she shouted louder, which woke her up.

The night's storm blew out its rage and mild morning sunlight poured through the window. She was more than confident about herself — rather their future. She wrote a letter — not a long one — that morning.

A few days later Hyung Chul received the letter, which read:

"Dear, Hyung Chul: As you know, I have been in agony recently — for obvious reasons. To be frank, once I tried to force myself to think no more of Jong Sup. But this only brought me greater distress. But I have found my real self. Life without Jong Sup would be empty. I love him so ardently. But sometimes it frightened me to think whether or not we can lead a new, happy life with this misfortune. But, I'm sure now, after much soul searching, that he and I can build a true, meaningful and happy life. I am resolved to be his companion for the rest of my life. I will find a job in Pyongyang as soon as possible. My happiness will not come until I sit by him and take care of him.

"Of course, I could write to him directly. But judging from the way he thinks, he might not read my letter when he knows it is from me. So, please take this letter and read it to him. With best regards, In Soon."

SHORT STORY

Old Ironsmith KWON

KIM SANG OH

The first part of this story is given in synopsis and the full text of the latter part follows.

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KWON is an old ironsmith with four assistants, working in a repair shop of a state farm. He is not only a veteran in this line of work but a chess player and unknown "master singer." He enjoys the respect and love of the farm workers.

He is a self-respecting person and is principled in his work, never sparing his efforts. He is always doing something. Though he is old enough to live on a pension, he does not think he is old.

The managerial board of the farm advised him to retire but he flatly refused, feeling highly insulted.

When his son, an official of the Ministry of Metal Industry, wrote him to come to Pyongyang and live with him, he again refused. The second letter came from his son. This time the son told the father to get ready, for he himself was coming to fetch his father and mother.

The old man did not prepare to leave and worked on vigorously as usual. Nevertheless he seemed to be brooding these days. His attitude and action betrayed that he was expecting something serious to happen.

A few days later his son came to the farm. He walked into the repair shop with the managerial chairman of the farm.

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"How are you, father!"

This greeting brought the father up from his chalk-lined iron plate with a start. He looked up over his convex glasses at the smiling man standing with a hat in his hand. Blacksmith Kwon stood up quickly as if pricked by something, took off his spectacles and stared at the young man.

"What on earth! It's you, Yong Kook."

"Yes, it's me, father. I dropped in on the way home from Songrim."

"Well . . ."

The father cast a look of wonder at the chairman and the rest of the people around there. The chairman explained smilingly, "He came to take you."

Iron worker Kwon looked at the chairman in dismay, then muttered something unintelligible.

"Take me? . . . Hum . . ." The old man sat down on a block of wood and drew out a tobacco pouch.

With a meaningful smile the managerial chairman asked, "Are you really going with your son?"

He took a pull or two on his pipe, then said, "What do you think, Comrade Chairman? Do you think I should go?"

The chairman tactfully turned toward the son.

"As I told you, Comrade Director, I do not want to lose your father. But I will not insist, since he is up in years, the work is strenuous and you came quite a distance to take him."

Laughing good-heartedly, the chairman looked around the group for approval. An elderly team member working on a water pump responded to the chairman with a nod.

"True enough. He is hale and hearty, but iron work is too much for his age. Why should a man with such a son do hard work? I have enough of scolding from him but that has nothing to do with what I said. Scolding is scolding, friendship is friendship." A burst of laughter greeted this remark.

Someone piped out, "That old farmer is slow in getting the hang of things." Another teased, "He can't even get the pump going, but he does not want to be scolded. Fine fellow!"

Undaunted, the team member ventured, "Fix that pump before you go, will you?"

This brought another roar of laughter.

Grandpa Kwon kept on smoking glumly without saying a word.

Swept by the jolly atmosphere, warehouse man Bongpil who was standing behind with Koh boldly stepped forward and politely greeted the chairman and the visitor from Pyongyang. With a feigned cough he addressed the guest, stroking his yellowish goatee, "Comrade Director, it is good that you came. Filial duty comes first, certainly. Take him along with you and make him comfortable. He is getting up in years. Yes, you should take him, though I hate to part with him. He is my bosom friend."

"What about the master singer of the ballad 'Maestro?' " some one asked.

As if remembering something suddenly, he said, "Ah ha! We will be in a pretty fix in the art circle without him, Comrade Director. Though we have friend Koh, your father has too good a repertoire to lose. That, that national tradition . . ."

A smothered giggle made the embarrassed warehouse man glance around, wondering what he had said wrong. Then he mumbled as though talking to himself.

"Will he have a chess mate in Pyongyang? His grandson won't be able to play with him yet . . . . That old man won't be able to get along without chess." Another burst of laughter. Midst of all this the chairman sneaked away to the carpenter's shop. The director smiled congenially at the people around him.

Ironsmith Kwon puffed at his pipe paying no attention to the conversation and laughter. Against the block of wood he was sitting on he knocked the ashes out of his pipe, rose and picked up a chisel. Then turning to his son he said, "You wait a while. The work will be over soon."

He placed the chisel along the white line on an iron sheet and his eyes searched for Setchai (third son of a family). But the man was not there. The old blacksmith frowned. The director quickly walked towards his father and lifted up a sledge-hammer. He began pounding at the chisel his father was holding.

At first, rhythmically moving his chisel, Grandpa Kwon watched his son over his spectacles with a faint smile lurking behind his grey moustache. Following the moving chisel the son kept on hammering. While cutting the iron sheet the father and son conversed.

"How's your family? All right?"

"Yes, all right, father."

"How about children?"

"They are very well."

"Byung Sun must be eight years old now, isn't he?"

"Yes, that's right. He will enter school this year. That brat is dying to see you, nagging me to death to bring you."

"I would like to see the children, too."

"You must come with me this time, mother too, of course. You do not have many things to move, do you?"

"Well, there shouldn't be much, but . . ." The father hummed and hawed.

The workers in the repair shop smiled, winking at each other. They took a fancy to the director, the son of the Ironsmith Kwon. Deuk Choon said with feeling:

"Grandpa taught his son right. His son is a quite decent man."

The iron sheet was cut. The son straightened his back leaning against the sledge-hammer. The father also raised his head. His face shone with gratification and pride.

"Ha, you still have the old knack. You should not lose it. No, you must not."

With a gentle smile, the son regarded the piece cut out from a drum.

It was towards evening when the father took his son to his home. The setting sun tinted with gold the clouds hanging low over the Koowol (September) Mountain. Some dozen new houses at the foot of a hill on the edge of the field came into sight. They were cozy houses with big glass windows, white walls and porches.

Pointing to those houses, the father said, "Those are model workers' houses built last autumn. They told me to move into one of those but I didn't. I did not need such big house."

The son sensed that his father was struggling to make up his mind.

From an angle-shaped, thatched house at the end of the village ran out an elderly woman. She grabbed her son while tears of joy welled to her eyes. In the room the mother asked over and over again about her grandchildren and his house in Pyongyang. Then she started on never-ending complaint against her husband. Her husband was working furiously without considering his age and stubbornly refusing to go to Pyongyang. This was the main source of her complaint.

This lasted until the old man scolded her, "Look here, our son came from far away. Are you going to fill his stomach with complaints? Nonsense! You better prepare supper, hurry."

Having chased out his wife, the father, just like the mother, began asking about his grandchildren and his son's house in Pyongyang. He laughed heartily when he heard that his youngest grandchild Byung Hak babbles "Grampo, grampo" when he sees elderly men with grey whiskers or pictures of such people.

Naturally the grandpa showed interest in the construction of Pyongyang, development of the iron industry of our country and, furthermore, in the international situation. He was readily persuaded by the explanation that his repair shop does not get any material allotment because it is not registered properly, though our iron output is rapidly growing.

By the time supper was brought in the old father was more inclined towards going to Pyongyang. He made inquiry about the procedure of moving and looked around the room thinking about how to pack.

At the table the son pulled out a bottle of ginseng wine from his brief case and handed it to his father. He took a cup of it. When he was told to take more he shook his head.

"I will wait until shop workers come. They will be here soon."

Sure enough, even before the table was cleared, Duk Sam, Chang Sun and Setchai with Deuk Choon at their van came in. They brought a big bottle of wine and two grey mullets just fresh from the water.

"Came to congratulate you for meeting your son, uncle," Deuk Choon said loudly.

"Thanks," the old man answered.

The old man's thoughts were running circles between this farm and Pyongyang. The wine and fish they brought, he thought, were not for the meeting of parents and son alone but for a farewell between him and his fellow-workers, though not a word was mentioned about that.

When drinking began grandad Kwon set out the ginseng wine. "Let's take ginseng wine first. My son brought it."

Appreciating the love of the son for his father, they examined the bottle in turn. Presently Deuk Choon took it up and asked admiringly, "Is this ginseng wine? Now, uncle, take it first for your longevity." He poured a cup full to the brim.

After a round of drinking, Chang Sun joined in the conversation. Playing host, he urged the son to take the fish. A jovial mood prevailed. Old man Duk Sam who was drinking silently suddenly spoke up in a grave tone.

"Mr. Director, you are the son of my brother — I call him a big brother. So you are my nephew, so to speak. No hard feelings, if I treat you in this relation. As for the big brother, he is not an ordinary old man. There is nothing he can't do. He has a magic hand. Magic hand, indeed! And his heart? It's genuine, I tell you. The heart counts first in a man. So we look down on a man without a heart as the scum of the earth. As for him no blood brother could be like him. I do not like to praise one to his face, but he is a real man.

"Mr. Director, you are in a high position, still you are the son of your father. And you want to take care of him. I know it's a filial duty. My big brother will be happy there, too, but I will miss him awfully. Some will miss you more than you think, big brother, although the farm will not go to pieces without you. Brother . . ."

He grabbed ironsmith Kwon's hand and big tears rushed to his eyes.

Gloom swept the room and an awkward silence fell on the group. Grandad stared at the table without a word and his son solemnly looked at old man Duk Sam. Pale Setchai was nervously watching the director, wanting to say something nice.

Deuk Choon saved the situation.

"Skip it, Big brother Duk Sam. Uncle will have a good time in Pyongyang. Why should we hold him back? We should send him off with a grand hurray. Let's empty our cups."

He filled Duk Sam's cup. Blinking his tear-filled eyes, Duk Sam took up the cup and admitted his mistake. "That's right. I made a blunder."

Chang Sun chimed in in the tone of a senior cadre, "Do not worry about the work. The shop won't be shut down. Pretty soon Setchai will be a regular worker."

"Certainly! When big cow goes away, small cow takes its place, as the saying goes," Deuk Choon laughed nodding toward Setchai.

For all the high-spoken confidence about how well things would go, their voices sounded a bit shaky.

Joviality had not been restored in spite of the great efforts exerted by Deuk Choon and Chang Sun to liven up things.

Bidding them good-night at the gate, Kwon Yong Kook, the son of the old blacksmith, thought, "They are working people of good will. Father has never been lonely among them."

Next morning after breakfast, while his wife and son were rolling up their sleeves to tackle the packing, the old iron worker in a new suit went out to the village people's committee.

When he came out to the highway he met an ox-cart carrying something. Seeing the blacksmith, the cart driver halted and greeted him gladly, "Where are you going, Grandpa? I am going to your shop now."

The ironsmith just swept his eyes across the load on the cart and coolly answered, "Go ahead," and walked on without even pausing. The cart driver stared with a look of surprise at the back of the old man in the new suit walking on nonchalantly. Arousing himself from stupor, he started on toward the repair shop.

When the ironsmith got to the office of the village people's committee, the small-built swarthy agronomist was about to lock the door and leave.

The old ironsmith approached the man and demanded bluntly without greeting, "Give me a form for notice of removal."

"All right, Grandpa."

Answering thus absent-mindedly the agronomist, ready to go into the room, suddenly turned around with surprise.

"What did you say? Removal? Are you going away, by any chance?"

"I am going to leave here."

The agronomist stared wide-eyed at the old man.

"Where are you going?"

"My son is going to place me on a throne and fete me day and night." Changing his tone abruptly he peremtorily demanded, "Give it to me, quick."

The agronomist stared at him again in an attempt to solve the riddle. Soon he went into the office shaking his head and brought out the form.

"The committee chairman is not in now and you can not get it signed. I reckon you have to fill it and bring it back later." He added, "Are you really going away? I am sorry. I was planning to visit you tonight and win a game of chess."

Starting to go the old man grunted, "If you want play, come to Pyongyang."

After a few paces, he turned round and said gently, "I will come back surely. Anyway thank you for your kindness."

He walked his head down, once in a while glancing toward the ploughed fields. There were new types of rice seedling beds which were introduced at the farm this year. He looked with wonder at the green seedlings growing on dry beds.

Viewing the vast plain, he thought, "How many thousand tons more grain, did they say, will be harvested this year? I don't remember. But it will be tremendous, for it is a 20 per cent increase."

His thoughts turned to his repair shop.

"Yes, our shop is to repair a bulldozer and make triple animal-drawn weeders. Didn't I promise this?" He could hear his own voice pledging at the employees' rally held in the new year. "I am an old man, but I can work yet. Don't worry about farm implements. I will do all I can to help you farmers. Hand in hand with our young friends, I will do my part for increasing grain output this year."

A vague uneasiness gripped his heart. His pace slowed down. When he was nearing the warehouse, the man in charge who was standing at the gate rushed toward him and anxiously asked stroking his yellow goatee, "Are you really leaving?" He rubbed his hands while waiting for an answer.

The blacksmith looked at him a moment and walked towards the repair shop without answering. He stopped before a heap of scrap iron in the yard of the shop. Somehow it appeared to him very meagre. He was swept by anxiety.

"This will not be enough even for this year. I see trouble ahead. Not enough for thick iron plates. We have to scratch up more scraps or get allocation officially through the Ministry."

He stood there a long time and then walked slowly into the shop. The first one he saw there was old man Duk Sam. While pumping at a blower, the old man observed blacksmith Kwon with a rueful expression. He stopped blowing. He moved his body in an effort to speak, but could not utter a word, only the muscle behind his bushy whiskers twitched.

Looking at the blower, ironsmith Kwon thought, "Yes, the motorization of this blowing is on the plan. It must be carried out soon. The work of this whiskery soul should be eased."

He surveyed the place. The dilapidated wall was an eye-sore. "The managerial chairman should give us the promised boards soon. He definitely said that we could have a new 12-foot lathe made in the U.S.S.R. Then the building has to be expanded. And that worn-out belt on the motor, it has to be replaced."

In deep thought he walked slowly around the shop, his shoulders drooping. He examined each lathe, boring machine, vice hammer, and other tools. Then he stood still in the middle of the work shop, as if trying to recall something. The thought that all these had nothing to do with him any more sent a pang like a sharp knife through his heart. With a deep sigh he went out.

From a far corner of the shop yard where people gathered Setchai carrying a hammer came toward his senior. He was flushed and even perspiring. He must have been working on something very hard. With a sad smile, he hesitatingly ventured, "Uncle, I have been wanting to ask you about this for some time, but I never got around to it. Well, it's about . . . bending cast iron. An urgent job has been brought in, I just can not manage it."

Setchai nodded toward the crowd and the old man followed. The junior blacksmith implored. "What shall I do without you? I shall have no one to consult with . . . . ."

The old iron worker looked at the lean profile of Setchai for a long time. Then he approached the group, with Setchai following.

People there welcomed the old iron worker with eager looks. Among them were Chang Sun and Deuk Choon as well as the ox-cart driver whom the grandpa Kwon met on the way to the people's committee office and the assistant truck driver, and old acquaintances. There was a twisted connecting shaft to a pulverizer lying on the ground.

The old iron worker told Setchai to try, nodding at the connecting shaft. Setchai tackled the work again. He tried hard but the cold piece of iron did not give in. Watching him work, the old man murmured to himself, "No, no! It won't do. That way iron does not obey. You're a smart fellow but you have to learn more. I have not taught you enough yet . . . . . No, it won't do. Give it to me, let me do it."

"Give it to me, let me do it," he said aloud without realizing and snatched away the hammer from his assistant. The disciple turned around. A happy smile spread all over the face of the old man. A little while later Setchai dashed out like a deer to his senior's house to fetch a pair of work clothes.

Some time passed and the son of the old iron worker came. He saw his father swinging the hammer in high spirits. Turning around with an embarrassed smile the father said, "Sorry, but I decided to stay. When I am too feeble to work I will go to you."

The son scrutinized his father. He did not attempt to persuade him any longer. He was touched by the sight of the rejuvenated father. "Father has his own life." Yes, the father had his own life, strenuous but proud and interesting — a life closely tied with the people and the country. "And where did I try to take him? To a place of comfort but no life?"

The father suggested:

"Your mother will be much disappointed about this. So take her along with you. She may stay there about a month. By the way, I have two toy cars under the wardrobe in the room. When you go back to the house, pull them out and take them to the chidren. I made those some time ago for them."

The son had another idea.

"When mother comes back I'll send the children with her. They can pass the summer here."

The father's face brightened up suddenly.

"That's good idea. Yes, send them to me. That's fine, splendid! Be sure to send them."

Around noon that day, a man in grey suit and an old lady in a jeep left the state farm amidst the unprecedentedly warm send-off of the entire workers of the repair shop.

These Shall Not Be Forgotten

"The atrocities the armed American devils perpetrated in my native village must be made known to the whole world. Of course, I am sure many people have already heard of their atrocities. But I can give a further detailed account of how the heinous American First Lt. Harrison and his lackeys murdered my parents, brothers, sisters, and my neighbours. I am one of the few survivors of their murderous atrocities. I'll tell my children and grandchildren to carry out my wish of letting the whole world know about the cold-blooded crimes committed by the American devils in Korea."

So reads a passage of Kim Soon Mo's note-book.

Then there was another passage:

"October 17, 1950. Cloudy, gloomy day. On that day misfortune befell my native village, Wonam-ri, Shinchun County of South Hwanghai Province."

When this reporter had read that far, Kim Soon Mo interrupted to ask me to come along with him to Chestnut Hill to see for myself how many people were brutally murdered by the Americans.

As we were going, pointing to a desolate hill, he said:

"Look at the hill over there! The American devils even bared it of trees after they killed and slaughtered so many innocent lives. Woe to the Americans who murdered our people!"

As he was saying these words, the muscles of his cheeks twitched and a shiver ran through him as if he were seeing again the whole ghastly scene. From his appearance one would never guess he is a lad of around twenty.

"It's already seven years since then . . . . The weather was as cool as today," the lad began to relate to me what had happened in the village in the autumn of 1950.

In the autumn of 1950 when the Korean People's Army made the temporary strategic retreat, his village was occupied by the American armed interventionists. As in all other districts under American occupation, American way of life was forced upon the inhabitants. And First Lt. Harrison, a commanding officer of the U.S. army stationed in the Shinchun districts, personally organized and led the wholesale slaughter of civilians.

On October 18, 1950, Harrison and his henchmen satisfied their thirst for blood by burning more than 900 civilians including members of the Workers' Party of Korea, government officials, their families and leading farmers.

They drove their victims into a cave, then poured gasoline over them and set fire to them. On the following day, the American brutes locked 520 innocent village people in an air-raid shelter, and tightly sealed the exit. Then they threw explosives into the shelter and watched these innocent people blown up into bits.

And the diabolical acts of the Americans did not stop here. There is the Patriots' Grave in Shinchun, where 5,600 persons were buried alive. The Patriots' Grave and many others in the village are silent witnesses of the mass slaughter of civilians by the Americans.

However, the enemy's days in the village were numbered. But their outrages increased just before they turned tails.

Here Kim paused in his narration. We climbed the Chestnut Hill in silence. Soon two big tombs and monuments came into sight. I learned from Kim that 400 mothers and 102 children were entombed in the two graves. Then he pointed to a ruined building nearby the tombs saying that it was in that building, a warehouse, where the Americans took so many Koreans' lives.

When we came to the graves Kim knelt down. I was shaken by a consuming wrath. To fight back the bitter tears I kept pacing up and down. Some moments passed in silence. Presently Kim stood up dried his eyes and continued:

"It was December 3, a few days before the Americans took to their heels. This time the enemy slaughtered 910 bereft families of Korean patriots. There were 400 mothers and over 200 children among them." Kim himself was one of the two children who miraculously survived from the mass slaughter. The other one was Kim Sang Won, now a pupil studying in the Wonam primary school.

"How did you escape?" I asked.

"Better say it was a miracle," Kim said, and went on:

"The warehouse in which we were detained was horrible. The air was so stuffy that we perspired, although a blizzard was raging outside. The enemy did not supply a drop of drinking water, let alone food. Children kept crying, 'Mummie, water, Mummie, I'm hungry! . . .'" Kim paused, obviously trying to shake off some of the horrors.

After a while he continued:

"Old folks and children died of starvation one after another. One day, towards the evening, several American officers came and unlocked the prison. Outside the warehouse stood a group of American soldiers and several jeeps. When one of the officers yelled to his men, the devils rushed in and drove us out. Quite a few mothers were hugging their dead or dying children to their breasts. The Americans brandished bayonets and ordered the mothers to leave their children on the ground and come forward.

"When the orders were not obeyed, the murderers jumped on the mothers and forcibly took away the babies. The mothers desperately fought to take back their children. The Americans then opened fire, killing many of the mothers. Had there been some men, I'm sure, we would have resisted the enemy.

"103 children survived out of 200, and we, I was one of them, were taken to another warehouse." Then Kim gave me an account of how he escaped from the hell.

"In the yelling and shouting I jumped into a trench dug on the hill-side. Of course, I was helped by some adults. Soon the enemy, finding one missing, fired in my direction. But I at last succeeded in escaping." He continued.

"After the children and babies were taken away, the Americans kept mothers and old folks in the same warehouse.

"Towards evening, the Americans came back to the warehouse and littered the whole building with straw. Every one knew that the Yanks were up to something. Sure enough, they sprayed gasoline on the prisoners with a hose. In the dark warehouse, the inmates shrieked, cursing the enemy. But every one of them believed that victory would certainly be on the side of the Korean people.

"The Americans threw a torch inside the warehouse and the whole place burst into flames. It was a living inferno. Then the Americans threw handgrenades at the people who attempted to escape.

"In the meantime, the 103 children detained in another huge warehouse, were all stripped of clothes. The Americans did not supply drinking water, but several times every day they poured water on the floor of the warehouse. As a result, ice formed all over the concrete floor. With their bodies all frostbitten, the children cried piteously for their mothers. The Americans took pleasure in beating up the children. They often opened the gate a bit and gave bangs to the children tottering towards the gate.

"All the children detained in the warehouse except Kim Sang Won who made a narrow escape through a ventilation hole died either of cold or starvation or from the beating."

Listening to Kim I recalled lines of a poem:

Curses upon the cannibals of
The White House!
May the wrathful spirits of murdered
Koreans
Haunt the American devils.
Never allow them to go home alive!
Curses upon American "civilization"!

The American cannibals, the enemy of mankind! We must not give them room to stand in our land to inflict such sufferings and pains on us again.

Dusk was already falling when Kim and I started for home. On the way back, neither Kim nor I uttered a word. In his quiet room that evening, I read the remaining part of Kim's note-book. The last passage read:

"Mother! I have survived. I'm determined to become a man with a strong will, a man who hates most the American murderers. I will take revenge for you and all other people fell by their hand. And I will tell the whole world what atrocities they committed."

Printing Types in Korea

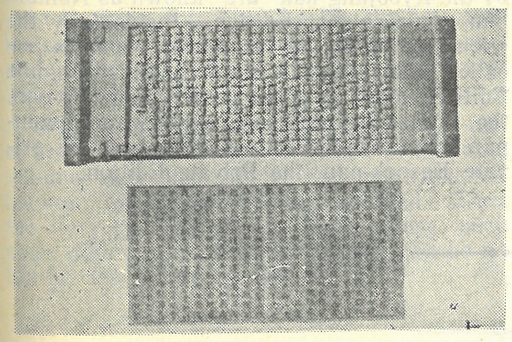
KIM HYUN IL

ACCORDING to the historical data, printing types were used in Korea as early as the 13th century.

Towards the latter part of the Koryu dynasty (918-1392), as stated in the Tonggook Li Sang Kook Jip (a collection of the renowned poet Li Kyoo Bo's works), there appeared a code of laws in 28 volumes entitled Kokeum Sangjung Ryemoon between 1234 and 1241. And further it is stated in the former that Li Kyoo Bo wrote a preface to the code of laws in which he made it a point to say that the 28 volumes were printed with metal types. Even though the entire work of the code has been lost, one can safely assume that, from the writings of Li Kyoo Bo, metal types had been in use some time prior to that since he did not say they were used for the first time.

The existing records state that the books printed in the Koryu era were known for their clearness and beauty of type even in China. So the Korean printing was already in a high stage of development at that time.

Speaking of the development of printing of the Koryu Kingdom, one cannot fail to mention the 6,000 engraved volumes of Buddhist scriptures that came out in 1011 A.D., and another 4,700 volumes of scriptures which were compiled by two venerable monks Taikak Kooksa and Eui Chun that appeared in 1086 A.D.



Above: A printing block of the Korean Buddhist scripture. Below: A page of the printed scripture

Later the engraved scriptures were burnt in war against foreign invaders. And in 1236 A.D., the 23rd year of the reign of King Kojong of the Koryu dynasty, they were engraved again. There were 86,686 blocks, which put out 6,780 volumes altogether. The printing blocks of this second engraving are preserved at present in the Haiin-sa Temple in Hapchun, South Kyungsang Province.

In articles on the development of printing types, usually the name of Pisung of China and that of Johannes Gutenberg of Germany are mentioned. But Pisung's types made of clay and glue were of little practical use. Gutenberg's appeared in the 1450's, two centuries later than the metal types first used in Korea.

In 1378 A.D., the fourth year of King Kongyang, the Sujuk-wun, or the Royal Book-Printing House was established to make types and print books.

After the Li dynasty (1392-1910) replaced the Koryu, printing made rapid development.

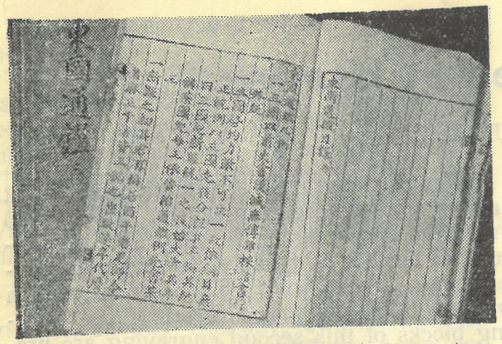
In 1403 A.D., a royal type-foundry was established by a decree of King Kojong. The king's order read in part:

"For administering the affairs of the state it is necessary to read extensively.... Now Chinese books arrive rarely and the printing blocks are insufficient for printing many books. It will be greatly beneficial to print books with copper types so books may be more widely disseminated."

Tens of thousands of types were put out at the foundry. And these were the first movable metal types to appear in the history of Korean printing, half a century before the Gutenberg's types.

Following this, sizes and shapes of the types went through a number of changes. But according to existing records, throughout the 500 years of the Li dynasty types were cast.

King Sejong's rule in the middle of the 15th century is known as the period of enlightenment of feudal culture in the Li dynasty. A large number of books on astronomy, dynamics, agronomy, medical science, philology, history, geography, music and so



Dong Kuk Tong Kam printed with copper type

forth were published. And during this period, on four occasions—in 1420, 1434, 1436 and 1450—new types were cast. The types cast in 1434 are known for their clear-cut lines. Altogether there were types for 200,000 characters. With these types Kookcho Bokam (Chronology of King's Administration), Samwun Tongko (Explanatory Remarks on Words), etc. were printed.

The movable type was made of various metals — lead, brass, iron, and copper. Even after the emergence of metal types engraving on wood was also used, which were employed especially for private publications such as Jokbo or family genealogy, works of some local writers, etc. Even in the court, block-printing was used in case of emergencies caused by political chaos or war when the metal types were not available or had been destroyed.

Actually the Taimyung Jikhai, or Interpretation of the Code of Laws of Ming, published in February 1395, three years after the founding of the Li dynasty by Li Sung Kye, was printed with wood blocks, and during the period of the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1598) they were applied.

Special attention was paid to variety of types. Types were remodelled on several occasions following the style of the famous Korean and Chinese calliographers. Consequently the cuts of the types were beautiful and diverse.

Along with the development of type the setting of type also made considerable advance.

According to the Yongjai Chonghwa, notes on historical events, by Sung Hyun who lived at the time of King Sungjong (1470-1494), advanced methods were already employed in type-founding, composing and printing in our country.

According to available records, characters were carved on wood, then a matrix was made in moulding clay, over which molten copper was poured. When the molten copper was cooled down, the clay was removed, and the types thus made were trimmed to be used in printing. Next they set the types, in accordance with the manuscript, into a forme. After inking Chinese ink on the surface of the forme they pressed it on paper. The open spaces between types and lines of the forme were packed with cards or pieces of thin bamboo or wood to prevent the cracking of the types or lines when printing. In earlier days, wax was used instead of the card and thin bamboo or wood.

As the type-founding and printing were expensive undertakings, these were undertaken mainly by the government organs, local governments, Buddhist temples, Suwuns (a school), etc. The Joojo-so or Type-foundry, Jooja Tokam or the Type-founding Administration and the Kankyung Tokam or the Publication Administration were the government agencies for founding types at that time, and the Kyoojang-kak or the Royal Library was the main publisher. So those books published by the Kyoojang-kak are known as Naikak-pan, the Cabinet Edition. Incidentally the books published by Buddhist temples are called Sachal-pan, the Buddhist Temple Edition; those by local governments To-pan, the Local Edition; those by Suwun Suwun-pan, the Suwun Edition; and those by private Kasook-pan, the Private Edition.

Selected Works of Current Korean Literature, Volume 1

Selected Works of Current Korean Literature, Vol. 1, recently published by the Korean Writers' Union Publishing House, contains 43 short stories by La Do Hyang (1902-1927), Li Ik Sang (of the early twenties), Choi Suh Hai (1898-1932), Jo Myung Hi (1892-). These are senior writers whose sympathies were towards proletarian literature in Korea.

Following the March First Uprisings in 1919, the Korean people, who rose up to fight against the Japanese imperialist rule in Korea influenced by the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia, witnessed a rapid growth of labour movement. And keeping pace with the changing world there emerged a "Literature of New Tendency" in the Korean literary world. A considerable number of writers who had belonged to bourgeois literary groups began to associate themselves with this new group.

La Do Hyang was one of them, who began his literary activities from an early age, and many novels came from his pen.

But it was his "Servant's Son" that appeared in October, 1923, which established his name as a humanitarian writer who stood on the side of the poor against oppressors.

The present volume contains six of his humanitarian stories.

Li Ik Sang, too, like La Do Hyang, tore himself from the bourgeois literary groups and joined the ranks of the progressive writers.

"People Driven from the Homeland," one of his five short stories contained in this new volume, describes vividly the contradiction between exploiters and the exploited. Then the story goes on to say that unless such class differences are levelled, there can be no life for the toiling masses.

Choi Suh Hai, unlike the writers mentioned above, won his literary fame as a proletarian writer from the beginning. He himself experienced the suffering and misfortunes of the poor and downtrodden people. To make a living he wandered in all parts of Korea and Northeast China.

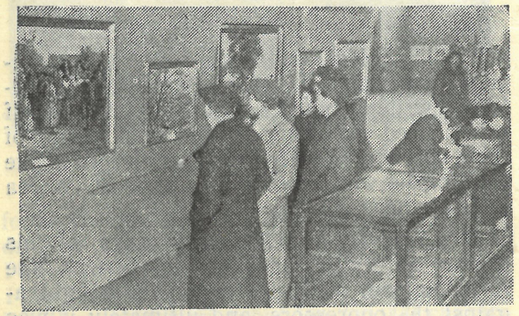
Consequently from the early days of his literary career he regarded his pen as the rostrum from which he called for a fight against the oppressors, and ultimately it was his weapon to destroy them with. Most of his 21 short stories contained in this volume show a strong class antagonism.

"Escape" is one of his outstanding works. It is a story of a poor man who leaves his home and family which is suffering from poverty and injustice. He goes away with the vow that he will overthrow the unjust social system and build a new one with no exploitation. The story of "Escape" leaves a deep impression on the heart of every reader.

Jo Myung Hi, together with Han Sul Ya and Li Ki Yung, is one of the founders of literature of socialist realism in Korea.

He, too, started his literary career amidst utter poverty. Poetry was his first literary medium. It was after his joining the KAP (Korean Association of Proletarian Art and Literature) that he began to write novels. Through his "Short Stories about Life" he linked his literary works with the working people's life. And this was his cry: "Nothing but realism — we must face reality. Let's look into reality and go forward!" His masterpiece "The Rakdong River," one of the best Korean literary works, described vividly and with great feeling the characters of the class fighters for the welfare of the people.

Rumanian Art Exhibition



The Rumanian Graphic Art Exhibition

Recently a Rumanian Art Exhibition has been held in Pyongyang, under the cultural exchange agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Rumanian People's Republic.

Altogether some 100 pieces were on display showing the Rumanian paintings of the past ten years.

The works of talented Rumanian painters, who are earnest to inherit and develop their revolutionary and realistic tradition, fully illustrated their inclination and emotion to serve their art for the social development and the interest of the people.

The canvases depicted with distinct individuality the fighters who had struggled for the liberation of the Rumanian people, the working people who are building socialism, and the beautiful landscapes of Rumania.

"Grivitsa 1933" by Mikloshi Gavril, "The Underground Printing Shop" by Seni Shtefan, "Entering the Pits" by Sharu George, "The Workers' Rally in May" by Garshiya Teodor, "Paying-Up the Loans in a Co-op" by Feyier Petru, impressed the spectators with their profound thought, painters' boldness in the treatment of the subjects, dynamic composition, complete mastery in depicting figures and group figures.

Through these paintings traces of such advanced Rumanian painters as Teodor Aman, Nikorae Grigoresku, Ion Andreesku could be seen, whose style is being inherited and developed by the Rumanian painters of today.

Indeed it was pleasure to view at this exhibit the works of the world renowned artists Baba Korneliu and Tsukurenku Aleksandru. Two works of Baba Korneliu, "Chess Players" and "Mitrya" were on display.

"Mitrya" is a portrait of the heroine that appears in Mikhail Sadovyanu's novel "Mitrya Kokor." It showed the maturity of a painter who opened a new stage in the field of portrait painting. It was a small sized colour pencil drawing. But the peasant awakeness towards the new, true life was vividly represented.

"A Winter Scene" and "A Composer" by Tsukurenku Aleksandru attracted the spectators' attention with their beauty, and serenity and colours.

The works of veteran Rumanian artists, Jan Al. Steriadi and Iosif Izer, were also exhibited. Their pieces, though limited in scope, revealed the mastery of the old painters immersed in the spirit of the times.

The landscapes by Nikolae Teteresku, Shveytser Kympena and Feyier Petrū, and the still life by Koditsa Pavel and G. Kadarji were most impressive.

The Korean painters learnt much from the exhibition on the traditional method of drawing, free use of colours and variety of themes of the Rumanian painters, particularly in the field of water colours.

The Rumanian art exhibition made a great contribution to strengthening friendly ties and cultural relations between Korean and Rumanian peoples.

In the NEWS

PREMIER KIM IL SUNG GAVE A NEW YEAR BANQUET

Greeting the New Year of 1958, Premier Kim Il Sung gave a New Year banquet.

Present were the leaders of the political parties, Government and social organizations, high-ranking officers of the People's Army, scientists, cultural workers, artists, journalists and Labour Heroes.

Foreign diplomats, Yang Yung, commanding officer of the Chinese People's Volunteers, and other foreign guests in Pyongyang also were invited.

At the banquet Premier Kim Il Sung delivered a speech. And representing foreign diplomats, Anton Tatu Jianu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Rumanian People's Republic to Korea, also spoke.

NATION-WIDE SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN

A nation-wide signature campaign has been launched in response to the decision adopted at the Second Congress of the United Democratic Fatherland Front held last December, which called for the immediate stop of the atomic and hydrogen bomb tests as well as the unconditional prohibition of their production and use, and the withdrawal of the American aggressive armed forces from South Korea who are scheming to convert South Korea into their atomic base.

Workers, men of political parties and social organizations, scientists, cultural workers, artists, journalists and many others already have joined the campaign.

CHINESE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION INVITED TO VISIT KOREA

At the end of last year, Premier Kim Il Sung extended an invitation in the name of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Government of the People's Republic of China to send a government delegation to visit Korea.

As to the date of the visit, the Government of the People's Republic of China will decide. However, Premier Kim Il Sung suggested that, if it is altogether possible, around the end of April or the beginning of May this year would be preferable. He said in the invitation that the Government of the D.P.R.K. would in particular be greatly honoured if Premier Chou En-lai could take the opportunity to visit our country.

Accepting this invitation, Premier Chou En-lai, in the name of the Government of the People's Republic of China, sent an answer to the Government of the D.P.R.K. The letter stated that the composition of the delegation and the date of the visit would be forwarded to the Government of the D.P.R.K. at a later date.

KOREAN-EGYPT TRADE AND PAYMENT AGREEMENTS SIGNED

In the early part of last December a trade mission of the Egyptian government arrived in Korea to sign trade and payment agreements with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

These agreements were strictly based on the principle of equality and mutual benefit.

Under the trade agreement, Korea will export to Egypt various kinds of steel, lead, zinc, graphite chemical fertilizers, marine and silk products, carbide, cornstarch, ginseng and other goods. In return Egypt will send to Korea cotton, cotton yarn, cotton and woolen textiles, rayon, dyes, spices, leather goods, manganese and other products.

INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHINA VISITED KOREA

On the invitation of Nam Il, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the D.P.R.K., R. K. Nehru, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Indian Republic to the Chinese People's Republic, and his party visited our country on December 9-11 last year.

During his stay in Korea,

THE DEATH OF COMRADE PETRU GROZA

The Korean people expressed their great sorrow over the death of Comrade Petru Groza, President of the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic.

Upon the receipt of the news of Comrade Petru Groza passed away, Premier Kim Il Sung and other leaders of the Party and the Government called at the Rumanian Embassy in Pyongyang on the afternoon of January 8, to express their condolence over Comrade Groza's death. And also many leading personnel of various political parties and social organizations visited the Rumanian Embassy.

And the Cabinet decided that January 10, the day of his funeral, should be made an occasion for mourning for the deceased.

Ambassador Nehru and his party visited many construction sites and various establishments in Pyongyang. And they also paid a call to the Mankyung-dai Agricultural Co-op in the vicinity of Pyongyang.

On the 10th of the month, the guests were received by Choi Yong Kun, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly.

KOREAN WOMEN SEND MESSAGE TO INDONESIAN WOMEN ON WEST IRIAN

In support of the Indonesian women's struggle for the liberation of West Irian, the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union sent a message to the Indonesian Women's Movement.

The message reads in part:

"The Korean women who champion the independence and freedom of nations are and will be on the side of you who have risen up in the just struggle. And we hope your struggle will culminate in victory. We wish you ever greater success."

INDONESIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION IN KOREA

On December 27, 1957 a Delegation of the Indonesian Communist Party visited our country on the invitation of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Welcoming the delegation headed by Sudisman, member of the Party's political bureau, a mass meeting was held in Pyongyang on December 28 last. And on the 30th, a talk was held between the representatives of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Indonesian Communist Party delegation in Pyongyang.

A joint communique was issued after the talk

FORMER SOUTH KOREAN POLITICAL LEADERS URGE COUNTRY'S PEACEFUL UNIFICATION

The Consultative Council for the Promotion of Peaceful Unification, an organization of the former South Korean political leaders in North Korea, called an extraordinary general meeting on December 30.

Cho So Ang, supreme member of the Council, delivered the main address. He called for more strenuous efforts for peace in Korea and for the peaceful unification of Korea in conformity with the spirit of the appeal of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, Peace Manifesto of the Moscow Conference, the report made at the Enlarged December Plenum of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (1957), and with the appeal and decisions of the Second Congress of the United Democratic Fatherland Front. Other speakers at the meeting were O Ha Yung and An Jai Hong, supreme members of the Council, Yun Ki Sup and Kim Yak Soo, executive members of the Council, Jo Hun Yung, Ryang Jai Ha and many others.

All the speakers expressed their support of the peaceful foreign policy of the Government of the D.P.R.K. and its proposals for the peaceful unification of the country, and their resolve to work more energetically for peace and for the country's peaceful unification. Several resolutions were adopted at the meeting.

CZECHOSLOVAK MEDICAL CORPS RETURNED HOME

The Czechoslovak Red Cross medical corps, which had given tremendous assistance to the Korean people, returned home in December last year.

The returning Czechoslovak medical corps transferred free of charge all its equipment, instruments and medicines to Korea.

Among the transferred are the most up-to-date instruments, dwelling houses, furniture, ambulances and two freight car load of medicines.

SYNTHETIC FIBRE FACTORY TO BE BUILT

A plan to complete a synthetic fibre factory with the annual production capacity of ten thousand tons by the first half of 1961 has been drawn up.

Designs are being drafted by the Ministry of Chemical Industry. An experimental artificial fibre factory was built in April 1956, in anticipation of the present plan. The results attained in the trial production under the guidance of Academician Li Seung Ki will aid in building the factory.

The Government has appropriated a large sum of funds for the new factory, and many eminent scientists, experts and designers are mobilized for the project.

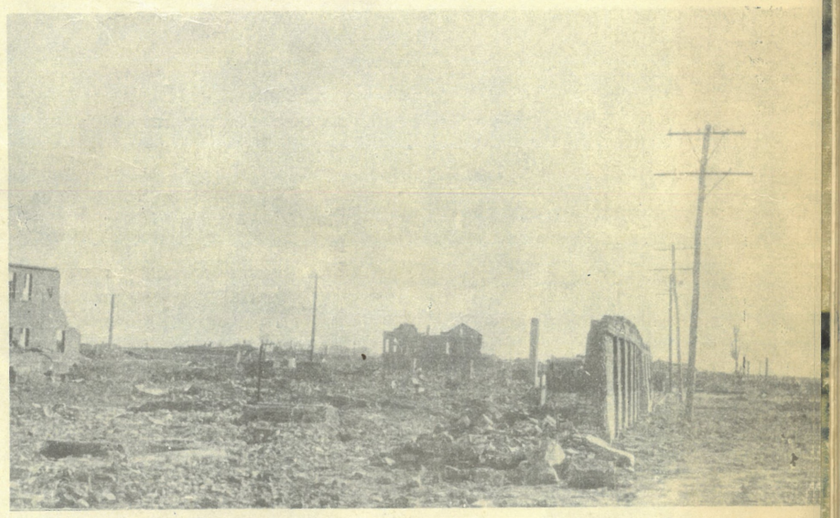
CORRECTION: On page 15 of our last issue (No. 1) "South Hwanghai Province" in the 4th line in the first column, should read "North Hwanghai Province," and on page 21 of the same issue. "18" in the 12th line in the first column, should read "20".

THE CITY OF HAMHEUNG UNDER RECONSTRUCTION

The war-ravaged Hamheung is being rebuilt into a modern city with the aid of the fraternal German people.

Upper: Newly-built flats
Middle: A part of Hamheung in the war time
Below: Houses under construction

Photo by the Korean Central News Agency



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